



(19)

Europäisches Patentamt

European Patent Office

Office européen des brevets



(11) EP 0 420 436 B1

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION

(45) Date of publication and mention
of the grant of the patent:
14.08.1996 Bulletin 1996/33(51) Int. Cl.⁶: C07F 7/00, C07F 7/28,
C08F 10/00, C08F 4/642

(21) Application number: 90309899.4

(22) Date of filing: 10.09.1990

(54) Olefin polymerization catalysts

Katalysatoren zur Polymerisation von Olefinen
Catalyseurs pour la polymérisation d'oléfines

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH DE DK ES FR GB GR IT LI LU NL SE(30) Priority: 13.09.1989 US 406945
04.06.1990 US 533245(43) Date of publication of application:
03.04.1991 Bulletin 1991/14

(60) Divisional application: 94203507.2

(73) Proprietor: EXXON CHEMICAL PATENTS INC.
Florham Park New Jersey 07932 (US)(72) Inventor: Canich, Jo Ann Marie
Houston, Texas 77058 (US)(74) Representative: Veldhulzen, Albert Dirk Willem et
al
Exxon Chemical Limited
Exxon Chemical Technology Centre
PO Box 1
Abingdon Oxfordshire OX13 6BB (GB)(56) References cited:
WO-A-87/03887

- "Gmelins Handbuch der anorganischen Chemie", vol. 10: "Zirkonium-Organische Verbindungen", vol. 11: "Hafnium-Organische Verbindungen", 1973, Verlag Chemie, GmbH, Weinheim, DE
- CHEMISCHE BERICHTE, vol. 123, no. 8, August 1990, pages 1649-1651, Weinheim, DE; J. OKUDA: "Synthesis and complexation of linked cyclopentadienyl-amido ligands"
- ORGANOMETALLICS, vol. 9, September 1990, pages 869-871, American Chemical Society, Washington, DC, US; P.J. SHAPIRO et al.: "[(N₅-C₅Me₄)Me₂Si(n₁-NCMe₃)(PM₃SCH)]₂: A unique example of a single-component alpha-olefin polymerization catalyst"
- Gmelins Handbuch der Anorganischen Chemie, vol. 40; part 1: "Titan-Organische Verbindungen", 1977, Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg, New York, pages 132, 134-137, 178-180, 198 and 204
- T.Kükenköhner "Untersuchungen zur Darstellung chiraler Organotitan(IV)-Verbindungen für enantioselective Synthesen"

Note: Within nine months from the publication of the mention of the grant of the European patent, any person may give notice to the European Patent Office of opposition to the European patent granted. Notice of opposition shall be filed in a written reasoned statement. It shall not be deemed to have been filed until the opposition fee has been paid. (Art. 99(1) European Patent Convention).

Description**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

5 This invention relates to processes using catalysts with certain transition metal compounds from Group IV B of the Periodic Table of Elements, and an alumoxane for the production of polyolefins, particularly α -olefin copolymers of ethylene having a high molecular weight. The catalyst system is highly active at low ratios of aluminum to the Group IV B transition metal, hence catalyzes the production of a polyolefin product containing low levels of catalyst residue.

10 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

As is well known, various processes and catalysts exist for the homopolymerization or copolymerization of olefins. For many applications it is of primary importance for a polyolefin to have a high weight average molecular weight while having a relatively narrow molecular weight distribution. A high weight average molecular weight, when accompanied by a narrow molecular weight distribution, provides a polyolefin or an ethylene- α -olefin copolymer with high strength properties.

15 Traditional Ziegler-Natta catalyst systems -- a transition metal compound cocatalyzed by an aluminum alkyl -- are capable of producing polyolefins having a high molecular weight but a broad molecular weight distribution.

More recently a catalyst system has been developed wherein the transition metal compound has two or more cyclopentadienyl ring ligands, such transition metal compound being referred to as a metallocene -- which catalyzes the production of olefin monomers to polyolefins. Accordingly, metallocene compounds of the Group IV B metals, particularly, titanocene and zirconocene, have been utilized as the transition metal component in such "metallocene" containing catalyst system for the production of polyolefins and ethylene- α -olefin copolymers. When such metallocenes are cocatalyzed with an aluminum alkyl -- as is the case with a traditional type Ziegler-Natta catalyst system -- the catalyst activity of such metallocene catalyst system is generally too low to be of any commercial interest.

20 It has since become known that such metallocenes may be cocatalyzed with an alumoxane -- rather than an aluminum alkyl -- to provide a metallocene catalyst system of high activity which catalyzes the production of polyolefins.

A wide variety of Group IV B transition metal compounds of the metallocene type have been named as possible candidates for an alumoxane cocatalyzed catalyst system. Hence, although bis(cyclopentadienyl) Group IV B transition 25 metal compounds have been the most preferred and heavily investigated type metallocenes for use in metallocene/alumoxane catalyst for polyolefin production, suggestions have appeared that mono and tris(cyclopentadienyl) transitions metal compounds may also be useful. See, for example, U.S. Patent Nos. 4,522,982; 4,530,914 and 4,701,431. Such mono(cyclopentadienyl) transition metal compounds as have heretofore been suggested as candidates for a metallocene/alumoxane catalyst are mono(cyclopentadienyl) transition metal trihalides and trialkyls.

30 More recently International Publication No. WO 87/03887 has appeared which describes the use of a composition comprising a transition metal coordinated to at least one cyclopentadienyl and at least one heteroatom ligand as a metallocene type component for use in a metallocene/alumoxane catalyst system for α -olefin polymerization. The composition is broadly defined as a transition metal, preferably of Group IV B of the Periodic Table which is coordinated with at least one cyclopentadienyl ligand and one to three heteroatom ligands, the balance of the coordination requirement 35 being satisfied with cyclopentadienyl or hydrocarbyl ligands. The metallocene/alumoxane catalyst system described is illustrated solely with reference to transition metal compounds which are bis(cyclopentadienyl) Group IV B transition metal compounds.

Even more recently, at the Third Chemical Congress of North America held in Toronto, Canada in June 1988, John Bercaw reported upon efforts to use a compound of a Group III B transition metal coordinated to a single cyclopentadienyl heteroatom bridged ligand as a catalyst system for the polymerization of olefins. Although some catalytic activity 40 was observed under the conditions employed, the degree of activity and the properties observed in the resulting polymer product were discouraging of a belief that such transition metal compound could be usefully employed for commercial polymerization processes.

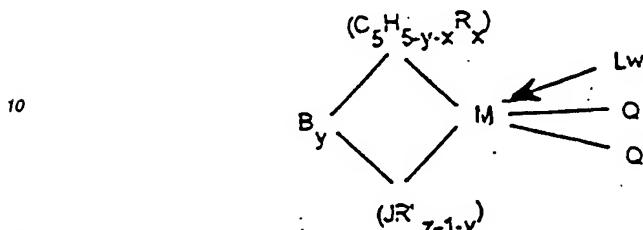
EP 416815 discloses monocyclopentadienyl derivatives for olefin polymerisation as well as polymerisation processes using such derivatives EP 416815 claims the priority of US 401345 which discloses a limited range of monocyclopentadienyl compounds and a limited choice of monomer combinations.

A thesis by Mr. Kükenthöhner of the University of Marburg discusses the synthesis of monocyclopentadienyl derivatives of titanium having chloride ligand and a three membered carbon bridge between an oxygen atom bonded to the titanium and the cyclopentadienyl moiety. There is no mention of using the compound for polymerising olefins.

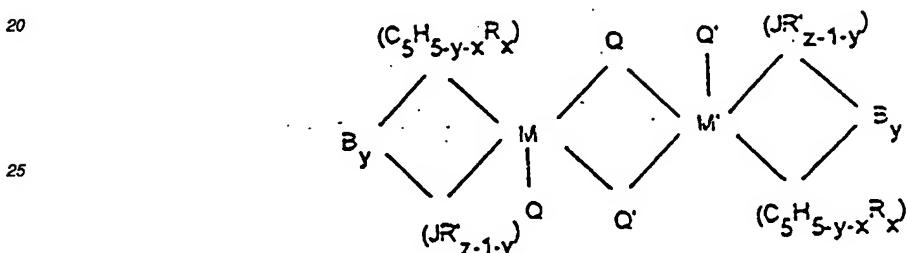
55 A need still exists for discovering catalyst systems that permit the production of higher molecular weight polyolefins and desirably with a narrow molecular weight distribution.

Summary of the invention

The invention provides a process for olefin polymerization, comprising polymerising ethylene and a monomer selected from C₃-C₂₀ α -olefin or a C₅-C₂₀ diolefin in the presence of a catalyst system comprising (A) a compound of the general formula:



OR

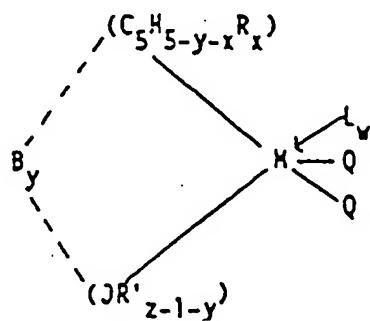


30 wherein M is Zr, Hf or Ti;
 $(C_5H_5-y-xR_x)$ is a cyclopentadienyl ring which is substituted with from zero to five groups R, "x" is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 denoting the degree of substitution, and each R is, independently, a radical selected from a group consisting of C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbyl radicals, substituted C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbyl radicals wherein one or more hydrogen atoms is replaced by a halogen atom, C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbyl-substituted metalloid radicals wherein the metalloid is selected from the Group IV A of the Periodic Table of Elements and halogen radicals;
 35 (JR'_z-1-y) is a heteroatom ligand in which J is an element with a coordination number of three from Group VA or an element with a coordination number of two from Group VI A of the Periodic Table of Elements, each R' is, independently, a radical selected from a group consisting of C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbyl radicals, substituted C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbyl radicals
 40 wherein one or more hydrogen atoms is replaced by a halogen atom, and "z" is the coordination number of the element J; each Q or Q' is, independently, halogen, hydride or a substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbyl, alkoxide, aryloxide, amide, arylamide, phosphide or arylphosphide provided that where Q or Q' is a hydrocarbyl such Q or Q' is different from $C_5H_5-y-xR_x$ or both Q and Q' together are an alkylidene or cyclometallated hydrocarbyl and M' has the same meaning as M;
 45 "y" is 0 or 1 when w is greater than 0; y is 1 when w is 0, when "y" is 1, B is a covalent bridging group containing a Group IV A or V A element; and L is a neutral Lewis base where "w" denotes a number from 0 to 3 and (B) an alumoxane with the exclusions of:

50 i) polymerizing ethylene and vinyl aromatic monomer; and
 ii) where the compound (A) is (N-t-butylamino)(dimethyl)(η^5 -2,3,4,5-tetramethylcyclopentadienyl)silane zirconium dichloride, polymerizing ethylene and 1-hexene or 4-methyl-1-pentene.

55 The catalyst system of this invention comprises a transition metal component from Group IV B of the Periodic Table of the Elements (CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics, 68th ed. 1987-1988) and an alumoxane component which may be employed in solution, slurry or bulk phase polymerization procedure to produce a polyolefin of high weight average molecular weight and relatively narrow molecular weight distribution.

The "Group IV B transition metal component" of the catalyst system is represented by the general formula:



wherein: M is Zr, Hf or Ti (usually in its highest formal oxidation state, +4, d⁰ complex); (C₅H_{5-y-x}R_x) is a cyclopentadienyl ring which is substituted with from zero to five substituent groups R, "x" is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 denoting the degree of substitution, and each substituent group R is, independently, a radical selected from a group consisting of C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbyl radicals, substituted C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbyl radicals wherein one or more hydrogen atoms is replaced by a halogen atom, C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbyl-substituted metalloid radicals wherein the metalloid is selected from the Group IV A of the Periodic Table of Elements, and halogen radicals ((C₅H_{5-y-x}R_x) may be a cyclopentadienyl ring in which two adjacent R-groups are joined forming C₄-C₂₀ ring to give a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic cyclopentadienyl ligand such as indenyl, tetrahydroindenyl, fluorenyl or octahydrofluorenyl)

20

(JR'_{z-1-y}) is a heteroatom ligand in which J is an element with a coordination number of three from Group V A or

25

an element with a coordination number of two from Group VI A of the Periodic Table of Elements, preferably nitrogen, phosphorus, oxygen or sulfur, and each R' is, independently a radical selected from a group consisting of C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbyl radicals, substituted C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbyl radicals wherein one or more hydrogen atoms is replaced by a halogen atom, and "z" is the coordination number of the element J;

30

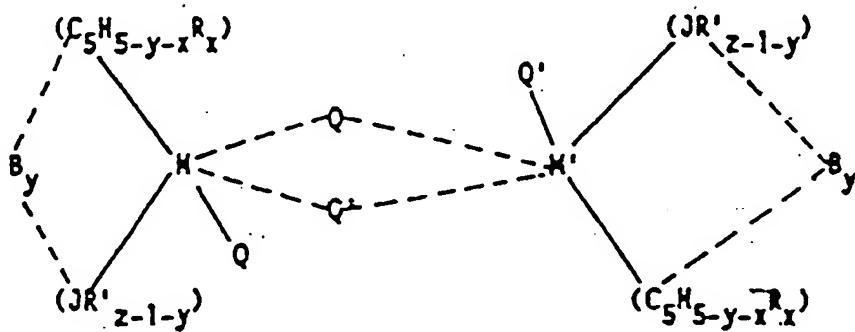
each Q may be independently any univalent anionic ligand such as halogen, hydride, or substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbyl, alkoxide, aryloxide, amide, arylamide, phosphide or arylphosphide, provided that where any Q is a hydrocarbyl such Q is different from (C₅H_{5-y-x}R_x), or both Q together may be an alkylidene or a cyclometallated hydrocarbyl or any other divalent anionic chelating ligand.

35

"y" is 0 or 1 when w is greater than 0; y is 1 when w is 0; when "y" is 1, B is a covalent bridging group containing a Group IV A or V A element such as, but not limited to, a dialkyl, alkyaryl or diaryl silicon or germanium radical, alkyl or aryl phosphine or amine radical, or a hydrocarbyl radical such as methylene or ethylene (see column 1 Table 1);

40

L is a Lewis base such as diethylether, tetraethylammonium chloride, tetrahydrofuran, dimethylaniline, aniline, trimethylphosphine, and n-butylamine, ; and "w" is a number from 0 to 3; L can also be a second transition metal compound of the same type such that the two metal centers M and M' are bridged by Q and Q', wherein M' has the same meaning as M and Q' has the same meaning as Q. Such compounds are represented by the formula:



55

The alumoxane component of the catalyst may be represented by the formulas: (R²-Al-O)_m; R³(R⁴-Al-O)_m-AlR⁵ or mixtures thereof, wherein R²-R⁵ are, independently, a univalent anionic ligand such as a C₁-C₅ alkyl group or halide and "m" is an integer ranging from 1 to 50 and preferably is from 13 to about 25.

Catalyst systems of the invention may be prepared by placing the "Group IV B transition metal component" and the alumoxane component in common solution in a normally liquid alkane or aromatic solvent, which solvent is preferably suitable for use as a polymerization diluent for the liquid phase polymerization of an olefin monomer.

A typical polymerization process of the invention such as for the copolymerization of olefins comprises the steps of
 5 contacting ethylene with other unsaturated monomers including C₃-C₂₀ α-olefins or C₅-C₂₀ diolefins, either alone or in combination with other olefins and/or other unsaturated monomers, with a catalyst comprising, in a suitable polymerization diluent, the Group IV B transition metal component illustrated above; and a methylalumoxane in an amount to provide a molar aluminum to transition metal ratio of from 1:1 to 20,000:1 or more; and reacting such monomer in the presence of such catalyst system at a temperature of from -100°C to 300°C for a time of from 1 second
 10 to 10 hours to produce a polyolefin having a weight average molecular weight of from 1,000 or less to 5,000,000 or more and a molecular weight distribution of from 1.5 to 15.0.

Lower molecular weight species may be produced by using catalyst species of reduced activity; higher temperatures and/or the use of transfer agents such as hydrogen.

Exemplary hydrocarbyl radicals for the Q (and Q') are methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, amyl, isoamyl, hexyl, isobutyl,
 15 heptyl, octyl, nonyl, decyl, cetyl, 2-ethylhexyl, and phenyl with methyl being preferred. Exemplary halogen atoms for Q and Q' include chlorine, bromine, fluorine and iodine, with chlorine being preferred. Exemplary alkoxides and aryloxides for Q and Q' are methoxide, phenoxy and substituted phenoxides such as 4-methylphenoxy. Exemplary amides for Q and Q' are dimethylamide, diethylamide, methylethylamide, di-*t*-butylamide, and diisopropylamide. Exemplary aryl amides are diphenylamide and any other substituted phenyl amides. Exemplary phosphides for Q and Q' are diphenylphosphide, dicyclohexylphosphide, diethylphosphide, and dimethylphosphide. Exemplary alkyldiene radicals for Q and Q together are methylidene, ethyldene and propylidene. Examples of the Q and Q' groups which are suitable as a constituent group or element of the Group IV B transition metal component of the catalyst system are identified in Column 4 of Table 1 under the heading "Q".

Suitable hydrocarbyl and substituted hydrocarbyl radicals, which may be substituted as an R group for at least one
 25 hydrogen atom in the cyclopentadienyl ring, will contain from 1 to 20 carbon atoms and include straight and branched alkyl radicals, cyclic hydrocarbon radicals, alkyl-substituted cyclic hydrocarbon radicals, aromatic radicals, alkyl-substituted aromatic radicals and cyclopentadienyl rings containing 1 or more fused saturated or unsaturated rings. Suitable organometallic radicals, which may be substituted as an R group for at least one hydrogen atom in the cyclopentadienyl ring, include trimethylsilyl, triethylsilyl, ethyldimethylsilyl, methyldiethylsilyl, triphenylgermyl and trimethylgermyl. Examples of cyclopentadienyl ring groups (C₅H_{5-y-x}R_x) which are suitable as a constituent group of the Group IV B transition metal component of the catalyst system are identified in Column 2 of Table 1 under the heading (C₅H_{5-y-x}R_x).

Suitable hydrocarbyl and substituted hydrocarbyl radicals, which may be substituted as an R' group for at least one
 35 hydrogen atom in the heteroatom J ligand group, will contain from 1 to 20 carbon atoms and include straight and branched alkyl radicals, cyclic hydrocarbon radicals, alkyl-substituted cyclic hydrocarbon radicals, aromatic radicals and alkyl-substituted aromatic radicals. Examples of heteroatom ligand groups (JR'_{z-1-y}) which are suitable as a constituent group of the Group IV B transition metal component of the catalyst system are identified in Column 3 of Table 1 under the heading (JR'_{z-1-y}).

Table 1 depicts representative constituent moieties for the "Group IV B transition metal component", the list is for illustrative purposes only and should not be construed to be limiting in any way. A number of final components may be formed by permuting all possible combinations of the constituent moieties with each other. Illustrative compounds are:
 40 dimethylsilyltetramethylcyclopentadienyl-*tert*-butylamido zirconium dichloride, dimethylsilyltetramethylcyclopentadienyl-*tert*-butylamido hafnium dichloride, dimethylsilyl-*tert*-butylcyclopentadienyl-*tert*-butylamido zirconium dichloride, dimethylsilyl-*tert*-butylcyclopentadienyl-*tert*-butylamido hafnium dichloride, dimethylsilyltrimethylsilylcyclopentadienyl-*tert*-butylamido zirconium dichloride, dimethylsilyltetramethylcyclopentadienylphenylamido zirconium dichloride, dimethylsilyltetramethylcyclopentadienylphenylamido hafnium dichloride, methylphenylsilyltetramethylcyclopentadienyl-*tert*-butylamido hafnium dichloride, methylphenylsilyltetramethylcyclopentadienyl-*tert*-butylamido zirconium dichloride, dimethylsilyltetramethylcyclopentadienyl-*p-n*-butylphenylamido zirconium dichloride, dimethylsilyltetramethylcyclopentadienyl-*p-n*-butylphenylamido hafnium dichloride. For illustrative purposes, the above compounds and those permuted from Table 50 1 does not include the Lewis base ligand (L). The conditions under which complexes containing Lewis base ligands such as ether or those which form dimers is determined by the steric bulk of the ligands about the metal center. For example, the *t*-butyl group in Me₂Si(Me₄C₅)(N-*t*-Bu)ZrCl₂ has greater steric requirements than the phenyl group in Me₂Si(Me₄C₅)(NPh)ZrCl₂ • Et₂O thereby not permitting ether coordination in the former compound. Similarly, due to the decreased steric bulk of the trimethylsilylcyclopentadienyl group in [Me₂Si(Me₃SiC₅H₃)(N-*t*-Bu)ZrCl₂]₂ versus that of the tetramethylcyclopentadienyl group in Me₂Si(Me₄C₅)(N-*t*-Bu)ZrCl₂, the former compound is dimeric and the latter is not.
 55

5

10

15

20

25

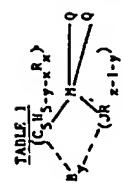
30

35

40

45

50



R (when $y = 1$)	$(C_5H_5)_2Y-R_X$	(JR_{2-1-y})	Q	H	H
dimethyltinyl	cyclopentadienyl	t-butylalaneido	hydride	zirconium	zirconium
diethyltinyl	methyldicyclopentadienyl	phenylalaneido	chloride	hafnium	hafnium
di-n-propyltinyl	1,2-diethylcyclopentadienyl	pre-butylphosphido	methyl	titaniun	titaniun
diisopropyltinyl	1,1-dimethylcyclopentadienyl	cyclohexylalaneido	ethyl		
di-n-butylinyl	iodamyl	perfluorophenylalaneido	phenyl		
di-n-hexyltinyl	1,2-diethylcyclopentadienyl	n-butylalaneido	fluoro		
di-n-heptyltinyl	1,1-dimethylcyclopentadienyl	methylanide	bromo		
di-n-octyltinyl	1,1,1-trimethylcyclopentadienyl	ethylamide	iodo		
ethyldiethyltinyl	1,1,1,1-tetramethylcyclopentadienyl	ethylamide	propyl		
ethyldiisopropyltinyl	1,1,1,1,1-pentaethylcyclopentadienyl	isopropylalaneido	isopropyl		
ethyldiisobutyltinyl	1,1,1,1,1,1-hexamethylcyclopentadienyl	benzylalaneido	isobutyl		
di-(<i>p</i> -t-butylphenyl)tinyl	1,2,3,4-tetraethylcyclopentadienyl	1,2-diethylphosphido	ethyl		
di- <i>p</i> -methylphenyltinyl	1,2,3,4,5-pentaethylcyclopentadienyl	1,2-diethylphosphido	isopropyl		
di- <i>p</i> -hexyltinyl	1,1,1,1,1,1-hexamethylcyclopentadienyl	1,2-diethylphosphido	isobutyl		
cyclopentadienyltinyl	1,1,1,1,1,1-hexamethylcyclopentadienyl	1,2-diethylphosphido	heptyl		
cyclooctatetraethyltinyl	1,1,1,1,1,1-hexamethylcyclopentadienyl	1,2-diethylphosphido	octyl		
cyclotriphosphazene	1,1,1,1,1,1-hexamethylcyclopentadienyl	1,2-diethylphosphido	nonyl		
cyclotriphosphazene	1,1,1,1,1,1-hexamethylcyclopentadienyl	1,1,1,1,1,1-hexamethylcyclopentadienyl	decyl		
cyclotriphosphazene	1,1,1,1,1,1-hexamethylcyclopentadienyl	1,1,1,1,1,1-hexamethylcyclopentadienyl	ethyl		
cyclotriphosphazene	1,1,1,1,1,1-hexamethylcyclopentadienyl	1,1,1,1,1,1-hexamethylcyclopentadienyl	ether		
dimethylgermynyl	1,1,1,1,1,1-hexamethylcyclopentadienyl	oxo ($\text{When } y = 1$)	propoxy		
dimethylgermynyl	1,1,1,1,1,1-hexamethylcyclopentadienyl	sulfido ($\text{When } y = 1$)	phenox		
phenylalaneido	1,1,1,1,1,1-hexamethylcyclopentadienyl	methoxide ($\text{When } y = 0$)	dimethylalaneido		
1-butylnamide	1,1,1,1,1,1-hexamethylcyclopentadienyl	ethoxide ($\text{When } y = 0$)	dimethylbutylalaneido		
acetylanamide	1,1,1,1,1,1-hexamethylcyclopentadienyl	methythic ($\text{When } y = 0$)	dimethylphenylalaneido		
ethylphosphido	1,1,1,1,1,1-hexamethylcyclopentadienyl	ethylthio ($\text{When } y = 0$)	dimethylphenylphosphido		
phenylnaphthylphosphido	1,1,1,1,1,1-hexamethylcyclopentadienyl	fluorenyl	dimethylphenylphosphido		
diethylalaneido	1,1,1,1,1,1-hexamethylcyclopentadienyl	octahydrofluorenyl	dimethylphenylphosphido		
diethylalaneido	1,1,1,1,1,1-hexamethylcyclopentadienyl	octahydrofluorenyl	dimethylphenylphosphido		
diethylalaneido	1,1,1,1,1,1-hexamethylcyclopentadienyl	trifluoromethylcyclopentadienyl	ethylidene (both Q)		
diethylalaneido	1,1,1,1,1,1-hexamethylcyclopentadienyl	trifluoromethylcyclopentadienyl	propylidene (both Q)		
diethylalaneido	1,1,1,1,1,1-hexamethylcyclopentadienyl	pentamethylcyclopentadienyl ($\text{When } y=0$)	ethylidene (both Q)		
diethylalaneido	1,1,1,1,1,1-hexamethylcyclopentadienyl	fluorenyl	ethylidene (both Q)		

Generally the bridged species of the Group IV B transition metal compound ("y"=1) are preferred. These compounds can be prepared by reacting a cyclopentadienyl lithium compound with a dihalo compound whereupon a lithium halide salt is liberated and a monohalo substituent becomes covalently bound to the cyclopentadienyl compound. The so substituted cyclopentadienyl reaction product is next reacted with a lithium salt of a phosphide, oxide, sulfide or amide (for the sake of illustrative purposes, a lithium amide) whereupon the halo element of the monohalo substituent group of the reaction product reacts to liberate a lithium halide salt and the amine moiety of the lithium amide salt becomes covalently bound to the substituent of the cyclopentadienyl reaction product. The resulting amine derivative of the cyclopentadienyl product is then reacted with an alkyl lithium reagent whereupon the labile hydrogen atoms, at the carbon atom of the cyclopentadienyl compound and at the nitrogen atom of the amine moiety covalently bound to

the substituent group, react with the alkyl of the lithium alkyl reagent to liberate the alkane and produce a dilithium salt of the cyclopentadienyl compound. Thereafter the bridged species of the Group IV B transition metal compound is produced by reacting the dilithium salt cyclopentadienyl compound with a Group IV B transition metal preferably a Group IV B transition metal halide.

5 Unbridged species of the Group IV B transition metal compound can be prepared from the reaction of a cyclopentadienyl lithium compound and a lithium salt of an amine with a Group IV B transition metal halide.

Suitable, but not limiting, Group IV B transition metal compounds which may be utilized in the catalyst system of this invention include those bridged species ("y"=1) wherein the B group bridge is a dialkyl, diaryl or alkylaryl silane, or methylene or ethylene. Exemplary of the more preferred species of bridged Group IV B transition metal compounds are
10 dimethylsilyl, methylphenylsilyl, diethylsilyl, ethylphenylsilyl, diphenylsilyl, ethylene or methylene bridged compounds. Most preferred of the bridged species are dimethylsilyl, diethylsilyl and methylphenylsilyl bridged compounds.

Suitable Group IV B transition metal compounds which are illustrative of the unbridged ("y"=0) species which may be utilized in the catalyst systems of this invention are exemplified by pentamethylcyclopentadienyldi-¹-butylphosphinodimethyl hafnium; pentamethylcyclopentadienyldi-¹-butylphosphinomethyl ethyl-hafnium; cyclopentadienyl-2-methylbutoxide dimethyl titanium.
15

To illustrate members of the Group IV B transition metal component, select any combination of the species in Table 1. An example of a bridged species would be dimethylsilylcyclopentadienyldi-¹-butylamidodichloro zirconium; an example of an unbridged species would be cyclopentadienyldi-¹-butylamidodichloro zirconium.

The alumoxane component of the catalyst system is an oligomeric compound which may be represented by the general formula $(R^2-Al-O)_m$ which is a cyclic compound, or may be $R^3(R^4-Al-O)_m-AlR^5$ which is a linear compound. An alumoxane is generally a mixture of both the linear and cyclic compounds. In the general alumoxane formula R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , and R^5 are, independently a univalent anionic ligand such as a C₁-C₅ alkyl radical, for example, methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, pentyl or halide and "m" is an integer from 1 to about 50. Most preferably, R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are each methyl and "m" is at least 4. When an alkyl aluminum halide is employed in the preparation of alumoxane, one or more of R^2 -
25 R^5 could be halide.

As is now well known, alumoxanes can be prepared by various procedures. For example, a trialkyl aluminum may be reacted with water, in the form of a moist inert organic solvent; or the trialkyl aluminum may be contacted with a hydrated salt, such as hydrated copper sulfate suspended in an inert organic solvent, to yield an alumoxane. Generally, however prepared, the reaction of a trialkyl aluminum with a limited amount of water yields a mixture of both the linear and cyclic species of alumoxane.
30

Suitable alumoxanes which may be utilized in the catalyst systems of this invention are those prepared by the hydrolysis of an alkylaluminum reagent; such as trimethylaluminum, triethylaluminum, tripropylaluminum; triisobutylaluminum, dimethylaluminumchloride, diisobutylaluminumchloride, diethylaluminumchloride, and the like. The most preferred alumoxane for use is methylalumoxane (MAO), particularly methylalumoxanes having a reported average degree of oligomerization of from 4 to 25 ("m"=4 to 25) with a range of 13 to 25 being most preferred.
35

Catalyst Systems

The catalyst system may include an alkyl aluminum and water which may react at least partly with each other
40 and/or with the metallocene compound outside of a polymerization vessel for what may be a reaction *in situ* in the polymerization vessel.

The catalyst systems employed in the method of the invention comprise a complex formed upon admixture of the Group IV B transition metal component with an alumoxane component. The catalyst system may be prepared by addition of the requisite Group IV B transition metal and alumoxane components to an inert solvent in which olefin polymerization can be carried out by a solution, slurry or bulk phase polymerization procedure.
45

The catalyst system may be conveniently prepared by placing the selected Group IV B transition metal component and the selected alumoxane component, in any order of addition, in an alkane or aromatic hydrocarbon solvent -- preferably one which is also suitable for service as a polymerization diluent. Where the hydrocarbon solvent utilized is also suitable for use as a polymerization diluent, the catalyst system may be prepared *in situ* in the polymerization reactor.
50 Alternatively, the catalyst system may be separately prepared, in concentrated form, and added to the polymerization diluent in a reactor. Or, if desired, the components of the catalyst system may be prepared as separate solutions and added to the polymerization diluent in a reactor, in appropriate ratios, as is suitable for a continuous liquid polymerization reaction procedure. Alkane and aromatic hydrocarbons suitable as solvents for formation of the catalyst system and also as a polymerization diluent are exemplified by, but are not necessarily limited to, straight and branched chain hydrocarbons such as isobutane, butane, pentane, hexane, heptane, octane and the like, cyclic and alicyclic hydrocarbons such as cyclohexane, cycloheptane, methylcyclohexane, methylcycloheptane and the like, and aromatic and alkyl-substituted aromatic compounds such as benzene, toluene and xylene. Suitable solvents also include liquid olefins which may act as monomers or comonomers including ethylene, propylene, 1-butene and 1-hexene.
55

In accordance with this invention optimum results are generally obtained wherein the Group IV B transition metal compound is present in the polymerization diluent in a concentration of from 0.0001 to 1.0 millimoles/liter of diluent and the alumoxane component is present in an amount to provide a molar aluminum to transition metal ratio of from 1:1 to 20,000:1. Sufficient solvent should be employed so as to provide adequate heat transfer away from the catalyst components during reaction and to permit good mixing.

The catalyst system ingredients -- that is, the Group IV B transition metal, the alumoxane, and polymerization diluent can be added to the reaction vessel rapidly or slowly. The temperature maintained during the contact of the catalyst components can vary widely, such as, for example, from -10° to 300°C. Greater or lesser temperatures can also be employed. Preferably, during formation of the catalyst system, the reaction is maintained within a temperature of from 10 25° to 100°C, most preferably about 25°C.

At all times, the individual catalyst system components, as well as the catalyst system once formed, are protected from oxygen and moisture. Therefore, the reactions are performed in an oxygen and moisture free atmosphere and, where the catalyst system is recovered separately it is recovered in an oxygen and moisture free atmosphere. Preferably, therefore, the reactions are performed in the presence of an inert dry gas such as, for example, helium or nitrogen.

15 In a preferred embodiment of the process of this invention the catalyst system is utilized in liquid phase (slurry, solution, suspension or bulk phase and combination thereof), high pressure fluid phase or gas phase polymerization of an olefin monomer. These processes may be employed singularly or in series. The liquid phase process comprises the steps of contacting an olefin monomer with the catalyst system in a suitable polymerization diluent and reacting said monomer in the presence of said catalyst system for a time and at a temperature sufficient to produce a polyolefin of 20 high molecular weight.

The monomer for such process may comprise ethylene in combination with an α -olefin having 3 to 20 carbon atoms for the production of an ethylene- α -olefin copolymer. Copolymers of propylene or butene with ethylene and C₄ or higher α -olefins and diolefins can also be prepared. Conditions most preferred for the co-polymerization of ethylene are those 25 wherein ethylene is submitted to the reaction zone at pressures of from 1.3x10⁻³ bar (0.019 psia) 3445 bar (50,000 psia) and the reaction temperature is maintained at from -100° to 300°C. The aluminum to transition metal molar ratio is preferably from 1:1 to 18,000 to 1. A preferable range would be 1:1 to 1000:1. The reaction time is preferably from 1 min to 1 hr. Without limiting in any way the scope of the invention, one means for carrying out the process of the present invention is as follows: in a stirred-tank reactor liquid 1-butene monomer is introduced. The catalyst system is introduced via nozzles in either the vapor or liquid phase. Feed ethylene gas is introduced either into the vapor phase of the reactor, 30 or sparged into the liquid phase as is well known in the art. The reactor contains a liquid phase composed substantially of liquid 1-butene together with dissolved ethylene gas, and a vapor phase containing vapors of all monomers. The reactor temperature and pressure may be controlled via reflux of vaporizing α -olefin monomer (autorefrigeration), as well as by cooling coils, jackets etc. The polymerization rate is controlled by the concentration of catalyst. The ethylene content of the polymer product is determined by the ratio of ethylene to 1-butene in the reactor, which is controlled by 35 manipulating the relative feed rates of these components to the reactor.

Examples

In the examples which illustrate the practice of the invention the analytical techniques described below were 40 employed for the analysis of the resulting polyolefin products. Molecular weight determinations for polyolefin products were made by Gel Permeation Chromatography (GPC) according to the following technique. Molecular weights and molecular weight distributions were measured using a Waters 150 gel permeation chromatograph equipped with a differential refractive index (DRI) detector and a Chromatix (a registered Trade Mark) KMX-6 on-line light scattering photometer. The system was used at 135°C with 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene as the mobile phase. Shodex (a Trade Mark of 45 Showa Denko America, Inc.) polystyrene gel columns 802, 803, 804 and 805 were used. This technique is discussed in "Liquid Chromatography of Polymers and Related Materials III", J. Cazes editor, Marcel Dekker, 1981, p. 207 which is incorporated herein by reference. No corrections for column spreading were employed; however, data on generally accepted standards, e.g. National Bureau of Standards Polyethylene 1484 and anionically produced hydrogenated 50 polyisoprenes (an alternating ethylene-propylene copolymer) demonstrated that such corrections on Mw/Mn (= MWD) were less than 0.05 units. Mw/Mn was calculated from elution times. The numerical analyses were performed using the commercially available Beckman/CIS customized LALLS software in conjunction with the standard Gel Permeation package, run on a HP 1000 computer.

The following examples are intended to illustrate specific embodiments of the invention and are not intended to limit the scope of the invention.

55 All procedures were performed under an inert atmosphere of helium or nitrogen. Solvent choices are often optional, for example, in most cases either pentane or 30-60 petroleum ether can be interchanged. The lithiated amides were prepared from the corresponding amines and either n-BuLi or MeLi. Published methods for preparing LiHC₅Me₄ include C.M. Fendrick et al. *Organometallics*, 3, 819 (1984) and F.H. Köhler and K. H. Doll, *Z. Naturforsch.* 376, 144 (1982). Other lithiated substituted cyclopentadienyl compounds are typically prepared from the corresponding cyclopentadienyl

ligand and η -BuLi or MeLi, or by reaction of MeLi with the proper fulvene. $ZrCl_4$ and $HfCl_4$ were purchased from either Aldrich Chemical Company or Cerac. Amines, silanes and lithium reagents were purchased from Aldrich Chemical Company or Petrarch Systems. Methylalumoxane was supplied by either Sherring or Ethyl Corp.

5 Examples A-L of Group IV B Transition Metal Components

Example A

Compound A:

10 Part 1. Me_4HC_5Li (10.0 g, 0.078 mol) was slowly added to a Me_2SiCl_2 (11.5 ml, 0.095 mol, in 225 ml of tetrahydrofuran (thf) solution). The solution was stirred for 1 hour to assure complete reaction. The thf solvent was then removed via a vacuum to a cold trap held at -196°C. Pentane was added to precipitate out the LiCl. The mixture was filtered through Celite. The solvent was removed from the filtrate. $Me_4HC_5SiMe_2Cl$ (15.34 g, 0.071 mol) was recovered as a pale yellow liquid.

15 Part 2. $Me_4HC_5SiMe_2Cl$ (10.0 g, 0.047 mol) was slowly added to a suspension of $LiHN-t-Bu$ (3.68 g, 0.047 mol, ~100 ml thf). The mixture was stirred overnight. The thf was then removed via a vacuum to a cold trap held at -196°C. Petroleum ether (~100 ml) was added to precipitate out the LiCl. The mixture was filtered through Celite. The solvent was removed from the filtrate. $Me_2Si(Me_4C_5)(HN-t-Bu)$ (11.14 g, 0.044 mol) was isolated as a pale yellow liquid.

20 Part 3. $Me_2Si(Me_4C_5)(HN-t-Bu)$ (11.14 g, 0.044 mol) was diluted with ~100 ml Et_2O . MeLi (1.4 M, 64 ml, 0.090 mol) was slowly added. The mixture was allowed to stir for 1/2 hour after the final addition of MeLi. The ether was reduced in volume prior to filtering off the product. The product, $[Me_2Si(Me_4C_5)(N-t-Bu)]Li_2$, was washed with several small portions of ether, then vacuum dried.

25 Part 4. $[Me_2Si(Me_4C_5)(N-t-Bu)]Li_2$ (3.0 g, 0.011 mol) was suspended in ~150 ml Et_2O . $ZrCl_4$ (2.65 g, 0.011 mol) was slowly added and the resulting mixture was allowed to stir overnight. The ether was removed via a vacuum to a cold trap held at -196°C. Pentane was added to precipitate out the LiCl. The mixture was filtered through Celite twice. The pentane was significantly reduced in volume and the pale yellow solid was filtered off and washed with solvent.

30 $Me_2Si(Me_4C_5)(N-t-Bu)ZrCl_2$ (1.07 g, 0.0026 mole) was recovered. Additional $Me_2Si(Me_4C_5)(N-t-Bu)ZrCl_2$ was recovered from the filtrate by repeating the recrystallization procedure. Total yield, 1.94 g, 0.0047 mol).

Example B

35 Compound B:

The same procedure of Example A for preparing compound A was followed with the exception of the use of $HfCl_4$ in place of $ZrCl_4$ in Part 4. Thus, when $[Me_2Si(Me_4C_5)(N-t-Bu)]Li_2$ (2.13 g, 0.0081 mol) and $HfCl_4$ (2.59 g, 0.081 mol) were used, $Me_2Si(Me_4C_5)(N-t-Bu)HfCl_2$ (0.98 g, 0.0020 mol) was produced.

40 Example C

Compound C:

45 Part 1. Me_2SiCl_2 (7.5 ml, 0.062 mol) was diluted with ~30 ml thf. A $t-BuH_4C_5Li$ solution (7.29 g, 0.056 mol, ~100 ml thf) was slowly added, and the resulting mixture was allowed to stir overnight. The thf was removed via a vacuum to a trap held at -196°C. Pentane was added to precipitate out the LiCl, and the mixture was filtered through Celite. The pentane was removed from the filtrate leaving behind a pale yellow liquid, $t-BuH_4C_5SiMe_2Cl$ (10.4 g, 0.048 mol).

50 Part 2. To a thf solution of $LiHN-t-Bu$ (3.83 g, 0.048 mol, ~125 ml), $t-BuH_4C_5SiMe_2Cl$ (10.4 g, 0.048 mol) was added drop wise. The resulting solution was allowed to stir overnight. The thf was removed via a vacuum to a trap held at -196°C. Pentane was added to precipitate out the LiCl, and the mixture was filtered through Celite. The pentane was removed from the filtrate leaving behind a pale yellow liquid, $Me_2Si(t-BuH_4C_5)(NH-t-Bu)$ (11.4 g, 0.045 mol).

55 Part 3. $Me_2Si(t-BuH_4C_5)(NH-t-Bu)$ (11.4 g, 0.045 mol) was diluted with ~100 ml Et_2O . MeLi (1.4 M, 70 ml, 0.098 mol) was slowly added. The mixtures was allowed to stir overnight. The ether was removed via a vacuum to a trap held at -196°C, leaving behind a pale yellow solid, $[Me_2Si(t-BuH_4C_5)(N-t-Bu)]Li_2$ (11.9 g, 0.045 mol).

Part 4. $[Me_2Si(t-BuH_4C_5)(N-t-Bu)]Li_2$ (3.39 g, 0.013 mol) was suspended in ~100 ml Et_2O . $ZrCl_4$ (3.0 g, 0.013 mol) was slowly added. The mixture was allowed to stir overnight. The ether was removed and pentane was added to precipitate out the LiCl. The mixture was filtered through Celite. The pentane solution was reduced in volume, and

the pale tan solid was filtered off and washed several times with small quantities of pentane. The product of empirical formula $\text{Me}_2\text{Si}(\text{t-BuH}_3\text{C}_5)(\text{N-t-Bu})\text{ZrCl}_2$ (2.43 g, 0.0059 mol) was isolated.

Example D

5

Compound D:

The same procedure of Example C for preparing compound C was followed with the exception of the use of HfCl_4 in Part 4. Thus, when $[\text{Me}_2\text{Si}(\text{t-BuH}_3\text{C}_5)(\text{N-t-Bu})]\text{Li}_2$ (3.29 g, 0.012 mol) and HfCl_4 (4.0 g, 0.012 mol) were used, the product of the empirical formula $\text{Me}_2\text{Si}(\text{t-BuH}_3\text{C}_5)(\text{N-t-Bu})\text{HfCl}_2$ (1.86 g, 0.0037 mol) was produced.

Example E

Compound E:

15

Part 1. Me_2SiCl_2 (7.0 g, 0.054 mol) was diluted with ~100 ml of ether. $\text{Me}_3\text{SiC}_5\text{H}_4\text{Li}$ (5.9 g, 0.041 mol) was slowly added. Approximately 75 ml of thf was added and the mixture was allowed to stir overnight. The solvent was removed via a vacuum to a cold trap held at -196°C. Pentane was added to precipitate out the LiCl. The mixture was filtered through Celite. The solvent was removed from the filtrate giving $\text{Me}_2\text{Si}(\text{Me}_3\text{SiC}_5\text{H}_4)\text{Cl}$ (8.1 g, 0.035 mol) as a pale yellow liquid.

Part 2. $\text{Me}_2\text{Si}(\text{Me}_3\text{SiC}_5\text{H}_4)\text{Cl}$ (3.96 g, 0.017 mol) was diluted with ~50 ml of ether. LiHN-t-Bu (1.36 g, 0.017 mol) was slowly added, and the mixture was allowed to stir overnight. The ether was removed via a vacuum and pentane was added to precipitate the LiCl. The mixture was filtered through Celite, and the pentane was removed from the filtrate. $\text{Me}_2\text{Si}(\text{Me}_3\text{SiC}_5\text{H}_4)(\text{NH-t-Bu})$ (3.7 g, 0.014 mol) was isolated as a pale yellow liquid.

Part 3. $\text{Me}_2\text{Si}(\text{Me}_3\text{SiC}_5\text{H}_4)(\text{NH-t-Bu})$ (3.7 g, 0.014 mol) as diluted with ether. MeLi (25 ml, 1.4M in ether, 0.035 mol) was slowly added. The mixture was allowed to stir for 1.5 hours after the final addition of MeLi. The ether was removed via vacuum producing 4.6 g of a white solid formulated as $\text{Li}_2[\text{Me}_2\text{Si}(\text{Me}_3\text{SiC}_5\text{H}_3)(\text{N-t-Bu})] \cdot 3/4\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ and unreacted MeLi which was not removed from the solid.

Part 4. $\text{Li}_2[\text{Me}_2\text{Si}(\text{Me}_3\text{SiC}_5\text{H}_3)(\text{N-t-Bu})] \cdot 3/4\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ (1.44 g, 0.0043 mol) was suspended in ~50 ml of ether. ZrCl_4 (1.0 g, 0.0043 mol) was slowly added and the reaction was allowed to stir for a few hours. The solvent was removed via vacuum and pentane was added to precipitate the LiCl. The mixture was filtered through Celite, and the filtrate was reduced in volume. The flask was placed in the freezer (-40°C) to maximize precipitation of the product. The solid was filtered off giving 0.273 g of an off white solid. The filtrate was again reduced in volume, the precipitate filtered off to give an additional 0.345 g for a total of 0.62 g of the compound with empirical formula $\text{Me}_2\text{Si}(\text{Me}_3\text{SiC}_5\text{H}_3)(\text{N-t-Bu})\text{ZrCl}_2$. The x-ray crystal structure of this product reveals that the compound is dimeric in nature.

Example F

Compound F:

40

Part 1. $\text{Me}_4\text{HC}_5\text{SiMe}_2\text{Cl}$ was prepared as described in Example A for the preparation of compound A, Part 1.

Part 2. LiHNPh (4.6 g, 0.0462 mol) was dissolved in ~100 ml of thf. $\text{Me}_4\text{HC}_5\text{SiMe}_2\text{Cl}$ (10.0 g, 0.0466 mol) was slowly added. The mixture was allowed to stir overnight. The thf was removed via a vacuum. Petroleum ether and toluene were added to precipitate the LiCl, and the mixture was filtered through Celite. The solvent was removed, leaving behind a dark yellow liquid, $\text{Me}_2\text{Si}(\text{Me}_4\text{HC}_5)(\text{NPh})$ (10.5 g, 0.0387 mol).

Part 3. $\text{Me}_2\text{Si}(\text{Me}_4\text{HC}_5)(\text{NPh})$ (10.5 g, 0.0387 mol) was diluted with ~60 ml of ether. MeLi (1.4 M in ether, 56 ml, 0.0784 mol) was slowly added and the reaction was allowed to stir overnight. The resulting white solid, $\text{Li}_2[\text{Me}_2\text{Si}(\text{Me}_4\text{C}_5)(\text{NPh})] \cdot 3/4\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ (11.0 g), was filtered off and was washed with ether.

Part 4. $\text{Li}_2[\text{Me}_2\text{Si}(\text{Me}_4\text{C}_5)(\text{NPh})] \cdot 3/4\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ (2.81 g, 0.083 mol) was suspended in ~40 ml of ether. ZrCl_4 (1.92 g, 0.0082 mol) was slowly added, and the mixture was allowed to stir overnight. The ether was removed via a vacuum, and a mixture of petroleum ether and toluene was added to precipitate the LiCl. The mixture was filtered through Celite, the solvent mixture was removed via vacuum, and pentane was added. The mixture was placed in the freezer at -40°C to maximize the precipitation of the product. The solid was then filtered off and washed with pentane. $\text{Me}_2\text{Si}(\text{Me}_4\text{C}_5)(\text{NPh})\text{ZrCl}_2 \cdot \text{Et}_2\text{O}$ was recovered as a pale yellow solid (1.89 g).

55

Example GCompound G:

5 The same procedure of Example F for preparing compound F was followed with the exception of the use of HfCl_4 in place of ZrCl_4 in Part 4. Thus, when $\text{Li}_2[\text{Me}_2\text{Si}(\text{Me}_4\text{C}_5)(\text{NPh})] \cdot 3/4\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ (2.0 g, 0.0059 mol) and HfCl_4 (1.89 g, 0.0059 mol) were used, $\text{Me}_2\text{Si}(\text{Me}_4\text{C}_5)(\text{NPh})\text{HfCl}_2 \cdot 1/2\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ (1.70 g) was produced.

Example H

10

Compound H:

Part 1. MePhSiCl_2 (14.9 g, 0.078 mol) was diluted with ~250 ml of thf. $\text{Me}_4\text{C}_5\text{HLi}$ (10.0 g, 0.078 mol) was slowly added as a solid. The reaction solution was allowed to stir overnight. The solvent was removed via vacuum to a cold trap held at -196°C. Petroleum ether was added to precipitate out the LiCl . The mixture was filtered through Celite, and the pentane was removed from the filtrate. $\text{MePhSi}(\text{Me}_4\text{C}_5\text{H})\text{Cl}$ (20.8 g, 0.075 mol) was isolated as a yellow viscous liquid.

Part 2. LiHN-t-Bu (4.28 g, 0.054 mol) was dissolved in ~100 ml of thf. $\text{MePhSi}(\text{Me}_4\text{C}_5\text{H})\text{Cl}$ (15.0 g, 0.054 mol) was added drop wise. The yellow solution was allowed to stir overnight. The solvent was removed via vacuum. Petroleum ether was added to precipitate out the LiCl . The mixture was filtered through Celite, and the filtrate was evaporated down. $\text{MePhSi}(\text{Me}_4\text{C}_5\text{H})(\text{NH-t-Bu})$ (16.6 g, 0.053 mol) was recovered as an extremely viscous liquid.

Part 3. $\text{MePhSi}(\text{Me}_4\text{C}_5\text{H})(\text{NH-t-Bu})$ (16.6 g, 0.053 mol) was diluted with ~100 ml of ether. MeLi (76 ml, 0.106 mol, 1.4 M) was slowly added and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir for ~3 hours. The ether was reduced in volume, and the lithium salt was filtered off and washed with pentane producing 20.0 g of a pale yellow solid formulated as $\text{Li}_2[\text{MePhSi}(\text{Me}_4\text{C}_5)(\text{N-t-Bu})] \cdot 3/4\text{Et}_2\text{O}$.

Part 4. $\text{Li}_2[\text{MePhSi}(\text{Me}_4\text{C}_5)(\text{N-t-Bu})] \cdot 3/4\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ (5.0 g, 0.0131 mol) was suspended in ~100 ml of Et_2O . ZrCl_4 (3.06 g, 0.0131 mol) was slowly added. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for ~1.5 hours over which time the reaction mixture slightly darkened in color. The solvent was removed via vacuum and a mixture of petroleum ether and toluene was added. The mixture was filtered through Celite to remove the LiCl . The filtrate was evaporated down to near dryness and filtered off. The off white solid was washed with petroleum ether. The yield of product, $\text{MePhSi}(\text{Me}_4\text{C}_5)(\text{N-t-Bu})\text{ZrCl}_2$, was 3.82 g (0.0081 mol).

Example I

35

Compound I:

$\text{Li}_2[\text{MePhSi}(\text{Me}_4\text{C}_5)(\text{N-t-Bu})] \cdot 3/4\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ was prepared as described in Example H for the preparation of compound H, Part 3.

40 Part 4. $\text{Li}_2[\text{MePhSi}(\text{Me}_4\text{C}_5)(\text{N-t-Bu})] \cdot 3/4\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ (5.00 g, 0.0131 mol) was suspended in ~100 ml of Et_2O . HfCl_4 (4.20 g, 0.0131 mol) was slowly added and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir overnight. The solvent was removed via vacuum and petroleum ether was added to precipitate out the LiCl . The mixture was filtered through Celite. The filtrate was evaporated down to near dryness and filtered off. The off white solid was washed with petroleum ether. $\text{MePhSi}(\text{Me}_4\text{C}_5)(\text{N-t-Bu})\text{HfCl}_2$ was recovered (3.54 g, 0.0058 mole).

45

Example JCompound J:

50 $\text{MePhSi}(\text{Me}_4\text{C}_5)(\text{N-t-Bu})\text{HfMe}_2$ was prepared by adding a stoichiometric amount of MeLi (1.4 M in ether) to $\text{MePhSi}(\text{Me}_4\text{C}_5)(\text{N-t-Bu})\text{HfCl}_2$ suspended in ether. The white solid could be isolated in near quantitative yield.

Example K

55

Compound K:

Part 1. $\text{Me}_4\text{C}_5\text{SiMe}_2\text{Cl}$ was prepared as described in Example A for the preparation of compound A, Part 1.

Part 2. $\text{Me}_4\text{C}_5\text{SiMe}_2\text{Cl}$ (10.0 g, 0.047 mol) was diluted with ~25 ml Et_2O . $\text{LiHNC}_5\text{H}_4\text{-p-t-Bu} \cdot 1/10\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ (7.57 g, 0.047 mol) was added slowly. The mixture was allowed to stir for ~3 hours. The solvent was removed via vacuum.

Petroleum ether was added to precipitate out the LiCl, and the mixture was filtered through Celite. The solvent was removed leaving behind an orange viscous liquid, $\text{Me}_2\text{Si}(\text{Me}_4\text{C}_5\text{H})(\text{HNC}_6\text{H}_4\text{-p-}\eta\text{-Bu})$ (12.7 g, 0.039 mol).

Part 3. $\text{Me}_2\text{Si}(\text{Me}_4\text{C}_5\text{H})(\text{HNC}_6\text{H}_4\text{-p-}\eta\text{-Bu})$ (12.7 g, 0.039 mol) was diluted with ~50 ml of Et_2O . M Li (1.4 M, 55 ml, 0.077 mol) was slowly added. The mixture was allowed to stir for ~3 hours. The product was filtered off and washed with Et_2O producing $\text{Li}_2[\text{Me}_2\text{Si}(\text{Me}_4\text{C}_5)(\text{NC}_6\text{H}_4\text{-p-}\eta\text{-Bu})] \cdot 3/4\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ as a white solid (13.1 g, 0.033 mol).

Part 4. $\text{Li}_2[\text{Me}_2\text{Si}(\text{Me}_4\text{C}_5)(\text{NC}_6\text{H}_4\text{-p-}\eta\text{-Bu})] \cdot 3/4\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ (3.45 g, 0.0087 mol) was suspended in ~50 ml of Et_2O . ZrCl_4 (2.0 g, 0.0086 mol) was slowly added and the mixture was allowed to stir overnight. The ether was removed via vacuum, and petroleum ether was added to precipitate out the LiCl. The mixture was filtered through Celite. The filtrate was evaporated to dryness to give a yellow solid which was recrystallized from pentane and identified as $\text{Me}_2\text{Si}(\text{Me}_4\text{C}_5)(\text{NC}_6\text{H}_4\text{-p-}\eta\text{-Bu})\text{ZrCl}_2 \cdot 2/3\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ (4.2 g).

Example L

Compound L:

$\text{Li}_2[\text{Me}_2\text{Si}(\text{Me}_4\text{C}_5)(\text{NC}_6\text{H}_4\text{-p-}\eta\text{-Bu})] \cdot 3/4\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ was prepared as described in Example K for the preparation of compound K, Part 3.

Part 4. $\text{Li}_2[\text{Me}_2\text{Si}(\text{Me}_4\text{C}_5)(\text{NC}_6\text{H}_4\text{-p-}\eta\text{-Bu})] \cdot 3/4\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ (3.77 g, 0.0095 mol) was suspended in ~50 ml of Et_2O . HfCl_4 (3.0 g, 0.0094 mol) was slowly added as a solid and the mixture was allowed to stir overnight. The ether was removed via vacuum and petroleum ether was added to precipitate out the LiCl. The mixture was filtered through Celite. Petroleum ether was removed via a vacuum giving an off white solid which was recrystallized from pentane. The product was identified as $\text{Me}_2\text{Si}(\text{Me}_4\text{C}_5)(\text{NC}_6\text{H}_4\text{-p-}\eta\text{-Bu})\text{HfCl}_2$ (1.54 g, 0.0027 mol).

Examples 5-11, 22, 24, 26, 28, 31, 33, 35-37 are examples of copolymerization of the invention. Examples 1-4, 12-21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 30, 32, 34 are illustrative examples of homopolymerization

Example 1

Polymerization - Compound A

The polymerization run was performed in a 1-liter autoclave reactor equipped with a paddle stirrer, an external water jacket for temperature control, a regulated supply of dry nitrogen, ethylene, propylene, 1-butene and hexane, and a septum inlet for introduction of other solvents, transition metal compound and alumoxane solutions. The reactor was dried and degassed thoroughly prior to use. A typical run consisted of injecting 400 ml of toluene, 6 ml of 1.5 M MAO, and 0.23 mg of compound A (0.2 ml of a 11.5 mg in 10 ml of toluene solution) into the reactor. The reactor was then heated to 80°C and the ethylene (60 psi) was introduced into the system. The polymerization reaction was limited to 30 minutes. The reaction was ceased by rapidly cooling and venting the system. The solvent was evaporated off of the polymer by a stream of nitrogen. Polyethylene was recovered (9.2 g, MW = 257,200, MWD = 2.275).

Example 2

Polymerization - Compound A

The polymerization was carried out as in Example 1 with the following changes: 300 ml of toluene, 3 ml of 1.5 M MAO, and 0.115 mg of compound A (0.1 ml of a 11.5 mg in 10 ml of toluene solution). Polyethylene was recovered (3.8 g, MW = 359,800, MWD = 2.425).

Example 3

Polymerization - Compound A

The polymerization was carried out as in Example 2 using the identical concentrations. The difference involved running the reaction at 40°C rather than 80°C as in the previous example. Polyethylene was recovered (2.4 g, MW = 635,000, MWD = 3.445).

Example 4Polymerization - Compound A

5 The polymerization was carried out as in Example 1 except for the use of 300 ml of hexane in place of 400 ml of toluene. Polyethylene was recovered (5.4 g, MW = 212,600, MWD = 2.849).

Example 510 Polymerization - Compound A

Using the same reactor design and general procedure as in Example 1, 300 ml of toluene, 200 ml of propylene, 6.0 ml of 1.5 M MAO, and 0.46 mg of compound A (0.4 ml of a 11.5 mg in 10 ml of toluene solution) was introduced into the reactor. The reactor was heated to 80°C, the ethylene was added 4.13 bar (60.psi), and the reaction was allowed to run for 30 minutes, followed by rapidly cooling and venting the system. After evaporation of the solvent, 13.3 g of an ethylene-propylene copolymer was recovered (MW = 24,900, MWD = 2.027, 73.5 SCB/1000C by IR).

Example 620 Polymerization - Compound A

The polymerization was carried out as in Example 5 except with the following changes: 200 ml of toluene and 0.92 mg of compound A (0.8 ml of a 11.5 mg in 10 ml of toluene solution). The reaction temperature was also reduced to 50°C. An ethylene-propylene copolymer was recovered (6.0 g, MW = 83,100, MWD = 2.370, 75.7 SCB/1000C by IR).

25

Example 7Polymerization - Compound A

30 Using the same reactor design and general procedure as in Example 1, 150 ml of toluene, 100 ml of 1-butene, 6.0 ml of 1.5 M MAO, and 2.3 mg of compound A (2.0 ml of a 11.5 mg in 10 ml of toluene solution) were added to the reactor. The reactor was heated at 50°C, the ethylene was introduced 4.48 bar (65 psi), and the reaction was allowed to run for 30 minutes, followed by rapidly cooling and venting the system. After evaporation of the toluene, 25.4 g of an ethylene-butene copolymer was recovered (MW = 184,500, MWD = 3.424, 23.5 SCB/1000C by ^{13}C NMR and 21.5 SCB/1000C by IR).

35

Example 8Polymerization - Compound A

40

The polymerization was carried out as in Example 7 except with the following changes: 100 ml of toluene and 150 ml of 1-butene. An ethylene-butene copolymer was recovered (30.2 g, MW = 143,500, MWD = 3.097, 30.8 SCB/1000C by ^{13}C NMR and 26.5 SCB/1000C by IR).

45

Example 9Polymerization - Compound A

The polymerization was carried out as in Example 7 except with the following changes: 200 ml of toluene, 8.0 ml of 50 1.0 M MAO, and 50 ml of 1-butene. An ethylene-butene copolymer was recovered (24.9 g, MW = 163,200, MWD = 3.290, 23.3 SCB/1000C by ^{13}C NMR and 18.9 SCB/1000C by IR).

Example 1055 Polymerization - Compound A

The polymerization was carried out as in Example 9 except for the replacement of 200 ml of toluene with 200 ml of hexane. An ethylene-butene copolymer was recovered (19.5 g, MW = 150,600, MWD = 3.510, 12.1 SCB/1000 C by ^{13}C NMR and 12.7 SCB/1000C by IR).

Example 11Polymerization - Compound A

5 The polymerization was carried out as in Example 10 except with the following changes: 150 ml of hexane, and 100 ml of 1-butene. An ethylene-butene copolymer was recovered (16.0 g, MW = 116,200, MWD = 3.158, 19.2 SCB/1000C by ^{13}C NMR and 19.4 SCB/1000C by IR).

Example 12

10 Using the same reactor design and general procedure already described, 400 ml of toluene, 5.0 ml of 1.0 M MAO, and 0.2 ml of a preactivated compound A solution (11.5 mg of compound A dissolved in 9.0 ml of toluene and 1.0 ml of 1.0 M MAO) were added to the reactor. The reactor was heated to 80°C, the ethylene was introduced (60 psi), and the reaction was allowed to run for 30 minutes, followed by rapidly cooling and venting the system. After evaporation of the solvent, 3.4 g of polyethylene was recovered (MW = 285,000, MWD = 2.808).

Example 13

20 Using the same reactor design and general procedure already described, 400 ml of toluene, 5.0 ml of 1.0 M MAO, and 0.2 ml of a preactivated compound A solution (11.5 mg of compound A dissolved in 9.0 ml of toluene and 1.0 ml of 1.0 M MAO) were added to the reactor. The reactor was heated to 80°C, the ethylene was introduced (60 psi), and the reaction was allowed to run for 30 minutes, followed by rapidly cooling and venting the system. After evaporation of the solvent, 3.4 g of polyethylene was recovered (MW = 285,000, MWD = 2.808).

Example 14Polymerization - Compound A

30 Using the same reactor design and general procedure already described, 400 ml of toluene, 0.25 ml of 1.0 M MAO, and 0.2 ml of a preactivated compound A solution (11.5 mg of compound A dissolved in 9.5 ml of toluene and 0.5 ml of 1.0 M MAO) were added into the reactor. The reactor was heated to 80°C, the ethylene was introduced 4.13 bar (60 psi), and the reaction was allowed to run for 30 minutes, followed by rapidly cooling and venting the system. After evaporation of the solvent, 1.1 g of polyethylene was recovered (MW = 479,600, MWD = 3.130).

Example 15Polymerization - Compound A

40 Using the same reactor design and general procedure already described, 400 ml of toluene and 2.0 ml of a preactivated compound A solution (11.5 mg of compound A dissolved in 9.5 ml of toluene and 0.5 ml of 1.0 M MAO) were added into the reactor. The reactor was heated to 80°C, the ethylene was introduced 4.13 bar (60 psi), and the reaction was allowed to run for 30 minutes, followed by rapidly cooling and venting the system. After evaporation of the solvent, 1.6 g of polyethylene was recovered (MW = 458,800, MWD = 2.037).

Example 16Polymerization - Compound A

50 Using the general procedure already described, 400 ml of toluene, 5.0 ml of 1.0 M MAO, 0.23 mg of compound A (0.2 ml of a 11.5 mg in 10 ml of toluene solution) was added to the reactor. The reactor was heated to 80°C, the ethylene introduced 27.6 bar (400 psi), and the reaction was allowed to run for 30 minutes, followed by rapidly cooling and venting the system. After evaporation of the solvent, 19.4 g of polyethylene was recovered (MW = 343,700, MWD = 3.674).

Example 17Polymerization - Compound A

5 The polymerization was performed in a stirred 100 ml stainless steel autoclave which was equipped to perform polymerizations at pressures up to 40,000 psi and temperatures up to 300°C. The reactor was purged with nitrogen and heated to 160°C. Compound A and alumoxane solutions were prepared in separate vials. A stock solution was prepared by dissolving 26 mg of compound A in 100 ml of toluene. The compound A solution was prepared by diluting 0.5 ml of the stock solution with 5.0 ml of toluene. The alumoxane solution consisted of 2.0 ml of a 4% MAO solution added
 10 to 5.0 ml of toluene. The compound A solution was added to the alumoxane solution, then 0.43 ml of the mixed solutions were transferred by nitrogen pressure into a constant-volume injection tube. The autoclave was pressurized with ethylene to 1784 bar and was stirred at 1500 rpm. The mixed solutions were injected into the stirred reactor with excess pressure, at which time a temperature rise of 4°C was observed. The temperature and pressure were recorded continuously for 120 seconds, at which time the contents of the autoclave were rapidly vented into a receiving vessel. The
 15 reactor was washed with xylene to recover any additional polymer remaining within. These washings were combined with the polymer released when the autoclave was vented to yield 0.7 g of polyethylene (MW = 245,500, MWD = 2.257).

Example 18Polymerization - Compound B

20 Using the general procedure described in Example 1, 400 ml of toluene, 5.0 ml of 1.0 M MAO and 0.278 mg compound B (0.2 ml of a 13.9 mg in 10 ml of toluene solution) was added to the reactor. The reactor was heated to 80°C and the ethylene 4.13 bar (60 psi) was introduced into the system. The polymerization reaction was limited to 10 minutes. The reaction was ceased by rapidly cooling and venting the system. The solvent was evaporated off the polymer by a stream of nitrogen. Polyethylene was recovered (9.6 g, MW = 241,200, MWD = 2.628).

Example 19Polymerization - Compound C

30 Using the general procedures described in Example 1, 300 ml of toluene, 4.0 ml of 1.0 M MAO and 0.46 mg compound C (0.4 ml of a 11.5 mg in 10 ml of toluene solution) was added to the reactor. The reactor was heated to 80°C and the ethylene 4.13 bar (60 psi) was introduced into the system. The polymerization reaction was limited to 30 minutes. The reaction was ceased by rapidly cooling and venting the system. The solvent was evaporated off the polymer by a stream of nitrogen. Polyethylene was recovered (1.7 g, MW = 278,400, MWD = 2.142).

Example 20Polymerization - Compound D

40 Using the general procedure described in Example 1, 400 ml of toluene, 5.0 ml of 1.0 M MAO and 0.278 mg compound D (0.2 ml of a 13.9 mg in 10 ml of toluene solution) was added to the reactor. The reactor was heated to 80°C and the ethylene 4.13 bar (60 psi) was introduced into the system. The polymerization reaction was limited to 30 minutes. The reaction was ceased by rapidly cooling and venting the system. The solvent was evaporated off the polymer by a stream of nitrogen. Polyethylene was recovered (1.9 g, MW = 229,700, MWD = 2.618).

Example 21Polymerization - Compound E

50 Using the general procedure described in Example 1, 300 ml of hexane, 9.0 ml of 1.0 M MAO and 0.24 mg compound E (0.2 ml of a 12.0 mg in 10 ml of toluene solution) was added to the reactor. The reactor was heated to 80°C and the ethylene 4.13 bar (60 psi) was introduced into the system. The polymerization reaction was limited to 30 minutes. The reaction was ceased by rapidly cooling and venting the system. The solvent was evaporated off the polymer by a stream of nitrogen. Polyethylene was recovered (2.2 g, MW = 258,200, MWD = 2.348).

Example 22Polymerization - Compound E

5 The polymerization was carried out as in Example 1 with the following reactor contents: 200 ml of toluene, 100 ml of 1-butene, 9.0 ml of 1.0 M MAO and 2.4 mg of compound E (2.0 ml of a 12.0 mg in 10 ml of toluene solution) at 50°C. The reactor was pressurized with ethylene 4.48 bar (65 psi), and the reaction was allowed to run for 30 minutes, followed by rapidly cooling and venting the system. After evaporation of the solvent, 1.8 g of an ethylene-butene copolymer was recovered (MW = 323,600, MWD = 2.463, 33.5 SCB/1000C by IR technique).

Example 23Polymerization - Compound F

15 The polymerization was carried out as in Example 1 with the following reactor conditions: 400 ml of toluene, 5.0 ml of 1.0 M MAO, 0.242 mg of compound F (0.2 ml of a 12.1 mg in 10 ml of toluene solution), 80°C, 4.13 bar (60 psi) ethylene, 30 minutes. The run provided 5.3 g of polyethylene (MW = 319,900, MWD = 2.477).

Example 24Polymerization - Compound F

20 The polymerization was carried out as in Example 1 with the following reactor conditions: 150 ml of toluene, 100 ml of 1-butene, 9.0 ml of 1.0 M MAO, 2.42 mg of compound F (2.0 ml of a 12.1 mg in 10 ml of toluene solution), 50°C, 4.48 bar (65 psi) ethylene, 30 minutes. The run provided 3.5 g of an ethylene-butene copolymer (MW = 251,300, MWD = 3.341, 33.28 SCB/1000C by IR technique).

Example 25Polymerization - Compound G

30 The polymerization was carried out as in Example 1 with the following reactor conditions: 400 ml of toluene, 5.0 ml of 1.0 M MAO, 0.29 mg of compound G (0.2 ml of a 14.5 mg in 10 ml of toluene solution), 80°C, 4.13 bar (60 psi) ethylene, 30 minutes. The run provided 3.5 g of polyethylene (MW = 237,300, MWD = 2.549).

Example 26Polymerization - Compound G

35 The polymerization was carried out in Example 1 with the following reactor conditions: 150 ml of toluene, 100 ml of 1-butene, 7.0 ml of 1.0 M MAO, 2.9 mg of compound G (2.0 ml of a 14.5 mg in 10 ml of toluene solution), 50°C, 4.48 bar (65 psi) ethylene, 30 minutes. The run provided 7.0 g of an ethylene-butene copolymer (MW = 425,000, MWD = 2.816, 27.11 SCB/1000C by IR technique).

Example 27Polymerization - Compound H

40 The polymerization was carried out as in Example 1 with the following reactor conditions: 400 ml of toluene, 5.0 ml of 1.0 M MAO, 0.266 mg of compound H (0.2 ml of a 13.3 mg in 10 ml of toluene solution), 80°C, 4.13 bar (60 psi) ethylene, 30 minutes. The run provided 11.1 g of polyethylene (MW = 299,800, MWD = 2.569).

Example 28Polymerization - Compound H

45 The polymerization was carried out as in Example 1 with the following reactor conditions: 150 ml of toluene, 100 ml of 1-butene, 7.0 ml of 1.0 M MAO, 2.66 mg of compound H (2.0 ml of a 13.3 mg in 10 ml of toluene solution), 50°C, 4.48

EP 0 420 436 B1

bar (65 psi) ethylene, 30 minutes. The run provided 15.4 g of an ethylene-butene copolymer (MW = 286,600, MWD = 2.980, 45.44 SCB/1000C by IR technique).

Example 29

5

Polymerization - Compound I

The polymerization was carried out as in Example 1 with the following reactor conditions: 400 ml of toluene, 5.0 ml of 1.0 MAO, and 0.34 mg of compound I (0.2 ml of a 17.0 mg in 10 ml of toluene solution) was added to the reactor. The 10 reactor was heated to 80°C, the ethylene was introduced (60 psi), and the reaction was allowed to run for 30 minutes, followed by rapidly cooling and venting the system. After evaporation of the solvent, 0.9 g of polyethylene was recovered (MW = 377,000, MWD = 1.996).

Example 30

15

Polymerization - Compound J

The polymerization was carried out as in Example 1 with the following reactor conditions: 400 ml of toluene, 5.0 ml of 1.0 M MAO, 0.318 mg of compound J (0.2 ml of a 15.9 mg in 10 ml of toluene solution), 80°C, 60 psi ethylene, 30 20 minutes. The run provided 8.6 g of polyethylene (MW = 321,000, MWD = 2.803).

Example 31

Polymerization - Compound J

25

The polymerization was carried out as in Example 1 with the following reactor conditions: 150 ml of toluene, 100 ml of 1-butene, 7.0 ml of 1.0 M MAO, 3.18 mg of Compound J (2.0 ml of a 15.9 mg in 10 ml of toluene solution), 50°C, 4.48 bar (65 psi) ethylene, 30 minutes. The run provided 11.2 g of an ethylene-butene copolymer (MW = 224,800, MWD = 2.512, 49.57 SCB/1000C by IR technique, 55.4 SCB/1000C by NMR technique).

30

Example 32

Polymerization - Compound K

35 The polymerization was carried out as in Example 1 with the following reactor conditons: 300 ml of toluene, 5.0 ml of 1.0 M MAO, 0.272 mg of compound K (0.2 ml of a 13.6 mg in 10 ml of toluene solution), 80°C, 4.48 bar (60 psi) ethylene, 30 minutes. The run provided 26.6 g of polyethylene (MW = 187,300, MWD = 2.401).

Example 33

40

Polymerization - Compound K

The polymerization was carried out as in Example 1 with the following reactor conditions: 150 ml of toluene, 100 ml of 1-butene, 7.0 ml of 1.0 M MAO, 2.72 mg of compound K (2.0 ml of a 13.6 mg in 10 ml of toluene solution), 50°C, 4.48 45 bar (65 psi) ethylene, 30 minutes. The run provided 3.9 g of an ethylene-butene copolymer (MW = 207,600, MWD = 2.394, 33.89 SCB/1000C by IR technique).

Example 34

50 Polymerization - Compound L

The polymerization was carried out as in Example 1 with the following reactor conditions: 400 ml of toluene, 5.0 ml of 1.0 M MAO, 0.322 mg of compound L (0.2 ml of a 16.1 mg in 10 ml of toluene solution), 80°C, 4.13 bar (60 psi) ethylene, 30 minutes. The run provided 15.5 g of polyethylene (MW = 174,300, MWD = 2.193).

55

Example 35Polymerization - Compound A

5 The polymerization was carried out as in Example 1 with the following reactor contents: 250 ml of toluene, 150 ml of 1-hexene, 7.0 ml of 1.0 M MAO and 2.3 mg of compound A (2.0 ml of a 11.5 mg in 10 ml of toluene solution) at 50° C. The reactor was pressurized with ethylene 4.48 bar (65 psi), and the reaction was allowed to run for 30 minutes, followed by rapidly cooling and venting the system. After evaporation of the solvent, 26.5 g of an ethylene-hexene copolymer was recovered (MW = 222,800, MWD = 3.373, 39.1 SCB/1000C by IR technique).

10

Example 36Polymerization - Compound A

15 The polymerization was carried out as in Example 1 with the following reactor contents: 300 ml of toluene, 100 ml of 1-octene, 7.0 ml of 1.0 M MAO and 2.3 mg of compound A (2.0 ml of a 11.5 mg in 10 ml of toluene solution) at 50° C. The reactor was pressurized with ethylene 4.48 bar (65 psi), and the reaction was allowed to run for 30 minutes, followed by rapidly cooling and venting the system. After evaporation of the solvent, 19.7 g of an ethylene-octene copolymer was recovered (MW = 548,600, MWD = 3.007, 16.5 SCB/1000C by ^{13}C NMR technique).

20

Example 37Polymerization - Compound A

25 The polymerization was carried out as in Example 1 with the following reactor contents: 300 ml of toluene, 100 ml of *cis*-1,4-hexadiene, 7.0 ml of 1.0 M MAO and 2.3 mg of compound A (2.0 ml of a 11.5 mg in 10 ml of toluene solution) at 50° C. The reactor was pressurized with ethylene 4.48 bar (65 psi), and the reaction was allowed to run for 30 minutes, followed by rapidly cooling and venting the system. After evaporation of the solvent, 13.6 g of an ethylene-*cis*-1,4-hexadiene copolymer was recovered (MW = 163,400, MWD = 2.388, 2.2 mole% determined by ^{13}C NMR).

30 Table 2 summarizes the polymerization conditions employed and the properties obtained in the product polymers as set forth in Examples 1-37 above.

35

40

45

50

55

5
10
15
20
25
30
35
40
45
50

TABLE I

EXPT. NO.	DIAMINE Dose ml	TRANSITION METAL COMPOUND (THC) Dose mole	ALKYLATOR Dose mole	MAINTAINING MONOMER [X10 ²]	MONOMER CONCENTRATION	Rxn. TIME: HR. A.			Rxn. TIME: HR. B.			CAT. ACTIVITY G. POLYMER/GRAM. HOUR		
						Rxn. THERM. °C.	HR.	MIN.	HR.	MIN.	HR.			
4	Ketene	300	A	5.588x10 ⁻⁴	MAO	9	16.11		MAO	0.5	5.4	212,600	2.869	1.933x10 ⁴
1	Toluene	400	A	5.588x10 ⁻⁴	MAO	9	16.11		MAO	0.5	9.2	257,200	2.275	3.292x10 ⁴
2	Toluene	300	A	2.794x10 ⁻⁴	MAO	4.5	16.11		MAO	0.5	3.8	359,800	2.425	2.720x10 ⁴
3	Toluene	300	A	2.794x10 ⁻⁴	MAO	4.5	16.11		MAO	0.5	2.4	635,000	3.445	1.718x10 ⁴
16	Toluene	400	A	5.588x10 ⁻⁴	MAO	5	8.95		MAO	0.5	19.4	341,700	3.674	6.943x10 ⁴

12	Toluene	400	A ^a	5.588x10 ⁻⁴	MAO	5.02	8.98	ethylen-	80	0.5	3.4	265,000	2.808	1.212x10 ⁴	
															7.156x10 ³
13	Toluene	400	A ^{a,b}	5.588x10 ⁻⁴	MAO	5.02	8.98	ethylen-	80	0.5	2.0	260,700	2.738		
14	Toluene	400	A ^a	5.588x10 ⁻⁴	MAO	0.26	0.67	ethylene-	80	0.5	1.1	479,800	3.130	3.933x10 ³	
15	Toluene	400	A ^a	5.588x10 ⁻⁴	MAO	0.1	0.018	ethylene-	80	0.5	1.6	458,800	2.037	5.727x10 ²	
16	Toluene	400	B	5.572x10 ⁻⁴	MAO	5	8.97	ethylene-	80	0.17	9.6	241,200	2.628	1.034x10 ³	
17	Toluene	300	C	1.311x10 ⁻³	MAO	4	3.58	ethylene-	80	0.5	1.7	218,400	2.142	3.041x10 ³	
20	Toluene	400	D	5.572x10 ⁻⁴	MAO	5	8.97	ethylene-	80	0.5	1.9	239,700	2.618	6.819x10 ³	

5
10
15
20
25
30
35
40
45
50
55

20

TABLE 2

EXP. NO.	DIAMINE Type	n ₁	TRANSITION METAL COMPOUND (TMG) Type	AMINO AMINE Type mmole	MONOIC HClO ₄ (X10 ⁻³)	MONOIC COPOLYMER	MMR TEMP. °C.	MMR, IR, A ₁	MMR, TIME YIELD %	SCB/ 1000C MMR	SCB/ 1000C IR	CAT. ACTIVITY C. THERMOPOLY THC-HOUR				
21	Xylylene	300	Z	5.61x10 ⁻⁴	MAO	9	16.04	ethylene- 60 psi	80	0.5	2.2	258,200	2,346	7.843x10 ³		
23	Toluene	400	F	4.79x10 ⁻⁴	MAO	5	10.44	ethylene- 60 psi	80	0.5	5.3	319,200	2,677	2.215x10 ⁴		
25	Toluene	400	G	5.22x10 ⁻⁴	MAO	5	9.50	ethylene- 60 psi	80	0.5	3.5	237,300	2,549	1.341x10 ⁴		
27	Toluene	400	H	5.62x10 ⁻⁴	MAO	5	8.90	ethylene- 60 psi	80	0.5	11.1	299,800	2,569	2.958x10 ⁴		
29	Toluene	400	I	5.37x10 ⁻⁴	MAO	5	8.98	ethylene- 60 psi	80	0.5	6.9	317,000	1,996	2.232x10 ³		
30	Toluene	400	J	5.39x10 ⁻⁴	MAO	5	8.94	ethylene- 60 psi	80	0.5	8.6	321,000	2,803	3.077x10 ⁴		
32	Toluene	300	K	5.06x10 ⁻⁴	MAO	5	9.87	ethylene- 60 psi	80	0.5	26.6	187,200	2,401	1.051x10 ³		
34	Toluene	400	L	5.60x10 ⁻⁴	MAO	5	8.93	ethylene- 60 psi	80	0.5	15.5	174,300	2,193	5.536x10 ⁴		
5	Toluene	200	A	1.118x10 ⁻³	MAO	9	8.05	ethylene- 60 psi	80	0.5	13.3	24,900	2,027	73.5	2.379x10 ⁴	
6	Toluene	200	A	2.235x10 ⁻³	MAO	9	4.03	propylene- 60 psi	50	0.5	6.0	93,100	2,370	75.7	5.369x10 ³	
7	Toluene	150	A	5.588x10 ⁻³	MAO	9	1.61	ethylene- 65 psi	50	0.5	25.4	184,300	3,426	23.5	21.5	9.091x10 ³
8	Toluene	100	A	5.588x10 ⁻³	MAO	9	1.61	1-butene- 65 psi	50	0.5	30.2	163,400	3,097	30.8	26.5	1.031x10 ⁴
9	Toluene	200	A	5.588x10 ⁻³	MAO	6	1.43	ethylene- 65 psi	50	0.5	24.9	163,200	3,290	23.3	18.9	8.912x10 ³
10	Hexane	200	A	5.588x10 ⁻³	MAO	6	1.43	ethylene- 65 psi	50	0.5	19.5	150,600	3,510	12.1	12.7	6.979x10 ³
11	Xylylene	150	A	5.588x10 ⁻³	MAO	6	1.43	ethylene- 65 psi	50	0.5	16.0	116,200	3,158	19.2	19.4	5.727x10 ³

5

10

15

20

25

30

35

40

45

50

55

It may be seen that the requirement for the alumoxane component can be greatly diminished by premixing the catalyst with the alumoxane prior to initiation of the polymerization (see Examples 12 through 15).

By appropriate selection of (1) the Group IV B transition metal component for use in the catalyst system; (2) the type and amount of alumoxane used; (3) the polymerization diluent type and volume; and (4) reaction temperature; (5)

TABLE 2

Ref. no.	Diluent	Alumoxane concentration (mol/l)	Transition metal concentration (mol/l)	Alumoxane diluent ml/mol	Monomer concentration (mol/l)	RKH, T _{init.} °C.	RKH, T _{init.} °C.	Yield %	CAT. ACTIVITY c. polymer/monomer						
									IR	100°C					
22	Toluene	200	R	5.61×10^{-3}	HAO	9	1.60	ethylene- 1-butene- 1-hexene- 1-octene- 1-decene- 1-hexadecene	50	0.5	1.8	$313,600$	$7,463$	33.3	6.417×10^2
24	Toluene	150	R	4.27×10^{-3}	HAO	9	1.60	ethylene- 1-butene- 1-hexene- 1-octene- 1-hexadecene	50	0.5	3.5	$251,300$	$3,261$	22.3	1.461×10^3
26	Toluene	150	C	5.22×10^{-3}	HAO	7	1.36	ethylene- 1-butene- 1-hexene- 1-octene- 1-hexadecene	50	0.5	7.0	$425,000$	$2,816$	27.1	2.682×10^3
28	Toluene	150	R	5.62×10^{-3}	HAO	7	1.25	ethylene- 1-butene- 1-hexene- 1-octene- 1-hexadecene	50	0.5	15.4	$286,600$	$2,980$	45.4	5.480×10^3
30	Toluene	150	J	5.59×10^{-3}	HAO	7	1.25	ethylene- 1-butene- 1-hexene- 1-octene- 1-hexadecene	50	0.5	11.3	$214,400$	$2,512$	49.6	4.001×10^3
32	Toluene	150	R	5.06×10^{-3}	HAO	7	1.30	ethylene- 1-butene- 1-hexene- 1-octene- 1-hexadecene	50	0.5	3.7	$207,600$	$2,394$	23.9	1.542×10^3
33	Toluene	250	A	5.53×10^{-3}	HAO	7	1.25	ethylene- 1-butene- 1-hexene- 1-octene- 1-hexadecene	50	0.5	26.5	$222,800$	$2,573$	29.1	9.182×10^3
34	Toluene	200	A	5.53×10^{-3}	HAO	7	1.25	ethylene- 1-butene- 1-hexene- 1-octene- 1-hexadecene	50	0.5	19.7	$348,600$	$3,007$	16.5	6.971×10^2
37	Toluene	200	A	5.53×10^{-3}	HAO	7	1.25	ethylene- 1-butene- 1-hexene- 1-octene- 1-hexadecene	50	0.5	13.6	$163,400$	$2,368$	2.2 ^c	4.868×10^3

Compound A was precipitated by dissolving the compound in solvent containing HAO

Precipitation of activated compound A was for one day.

Rate X constant.

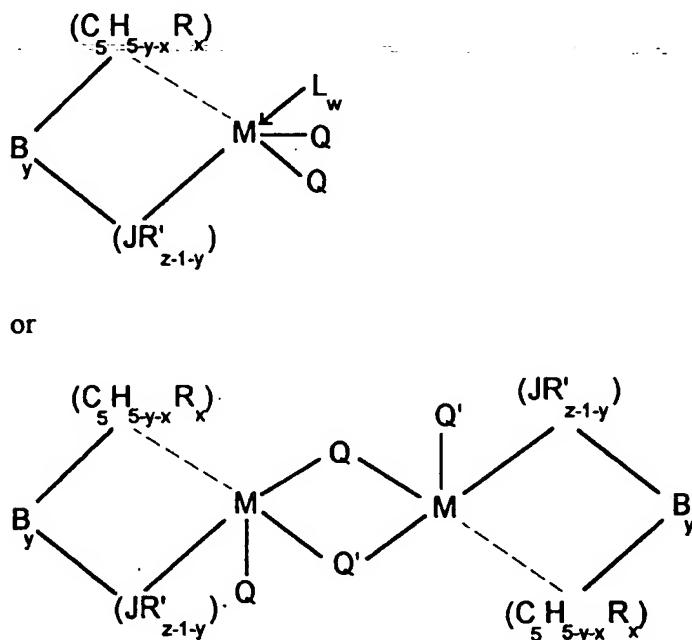
reaction pressure, one may tailor the product polymer to the weight average molecular weight value desired while still maintaining the molecular weight distribution to a value below about 4.0.

The preferred polymerization diluents for practice of the process of the invention are aromatic diluents, such as toluene, or alkanes, such as hexane.

5 The resins that are prepared in accordance with this invention can be used to make a variety of products including films and fibers.

Claims

10 1. A process for olefin polymerization, comprising polymerizing ethylene and a monomer selected from C₃-C₂₀ α -olefin or a C₅-C₂₀ diolefin in the presence of a catalyst system comprising (A) a compound of the general formula:



wherein M is Zr, Hf or Ti;

(C₅H_{5-y-x}R_x) is a cyclopentadienyl ring which is substituted with from zero to five groups R, "x" is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 denoting the degree of substitution, and each R is, independently, a radical selected from a group consisting of C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbyl radicals, substituted C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbyl radicals wherein one or more hydrogen atoms is replaced by a halogen atom, C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbyl-substituted metalloid radicals wherein the metalloid is selected from the Group IVA of the Periodic Table of Elements and halogen radicals;

(JR'_{z-1-y}) is a heteroatom ligand in which J is an element with a coordination number of three from Group VA or an element with a coordination number of two from Group VIA of the Periodic Table of Elements, each R' is, independently, a radical selected from a group consisting of C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbyl radicals, substituted C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbyl radicals wherein one or more hydrogen atoms is replaced by a halogen atom, and "z" is the coordination number of the element J;

each Q and Q' is, independently, halogen, hydride or a substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbyl, alkoxide, aryloxide, amide, arylamide, phosphide or arylphosphide provided that where Q or Q' is a hydrocarbyl such Q or Q' is different from C₅H_{5-y-x}R_x or both Q and Q' together are an alkylidene or cyclometallated hydrocarbyl and M' has the same meaning as M;

"y" is 0 or 1 when w is greater than 0; y is 1 when w is 0, when "y" is 1, B is a covalent bridging group containing a Group IVA or VA element; and

L is a neutral Lewis base where "w" denotes a number from 0 to 3 and

(B) an alumoxane

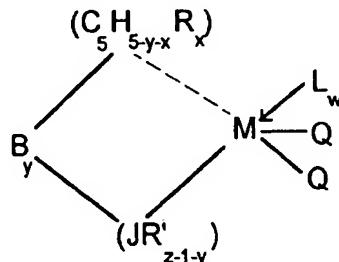
with the exclusions of:

- i) polymerizing ethylene and vinyl aromatic monomer; and

ii) where the compound (A) is (N-t-butylamino)(dimethyl)(η^5 -2,3,4,5-tetramethylcyclopentadienyl)silane zirconium dichloride, polymerizing ethylene and 1-hexene or 4-methyl-1-pentene.

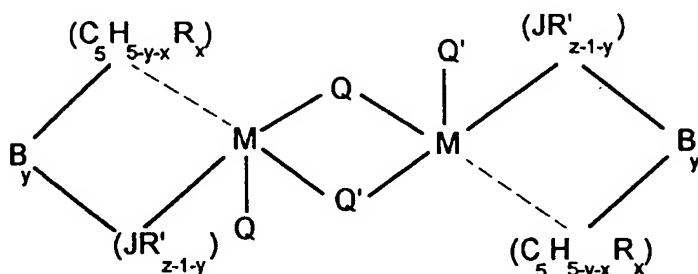
- 2. A process according to claim 1 which is a liquid phase polymerization.
- 5 3. A process according to claim 2 wherein ethylene is submitted to a reaction zone at pressures of from $1.3 \cdot 10^{-3}$ bar to 3445 bar and a reaction temperature from -100°C to 300° C.
- 10 4. A process according to claim 1 where the α -olefin is 1-butene or 1-octene.
- 15 5. A process according to claim 1 or claim 4 in which the alumoxane is methylalumoxane having an average degree of oligomerization of from 4 to 25.
- 6. A process according to any of the preceding claims in which the resulting polymer has an Mw/Mn of from 1.5 to 15.0.
- 20 7. A process according to any of the preceding claims in which the resulting polymer has a weight average molecular weight of from 1000 to 5 million.

20 8. Use of a compound of the general formula:



35

OR



50

wherein M is Zr, Hf or Ti;

$(C_5H_{5-y-x}R_x)$ is a cyclopentadienyl ring which is substituted with from zero to five groups R, "x" is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 denoting the degree of substitution, and each R is, independently, a radical selected from a group consisting of C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbyl radicals, substituted C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbyl radicals wherein one or more hydrogen atoms is replaced by a halogen atom, C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbyl-substituted metalloid radicals wherein the metalloid is selected from the Group IVA of the Periodic Table of Elements and halogen radicals;

(JR'_{z-1-y}) is a heteroatom ligand in which J is an element with a coordination number of three from Group VA or an element with a coordination number of two from Group VIA of the Periodic Table of Elements, each R' is, independently, a radical selected from a group consisting of C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbyl radicals, substituted C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbyl radicals wherein one or more hydrogen atoms is replaced by a halogen atom, and "z" is the coordination number of

the element J;

each Q and Q' is, independently, halogen, hydride or a substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbyl, alkoxide, aryloxide, amide, arylamide, phosphide or arylphosphide provided that where Q or Q' is a hydrocarbyl such Q or Q' is different from C₅H_{5-y-x}R_x or both Q and Q' together are an alkylidene or cyclometallated hydrocarbyl and M' has the same meaning as M;

"y" is 0 or 1 when w is greater than 0; y is 1 when w is 0, when "y" is 1, B is a covalent bridging group containing a Group IVA or VA element; and

L is a neutral Lewis base where "w" denotes a number from 0 to 3

in the olefin polymerization of ethylene and a monomer selected from C₃-C₂₀ α -olefin or a C₅-C₂₀ diolefin with the exclusions of:

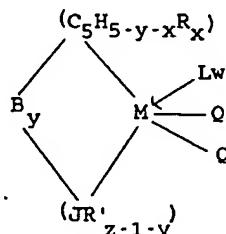
- i) polymerizing ethylene and vinyl aromatic monomer; and
- ii) where the compound (A) is (N-t-butylamino)(dimethyl)(η^5 -2,3,4,5-tetramethylcyclopentadienyl)silane zirconium dichloride, polymerizing ethylene and 1-hexene or 4-methyl-1-pentene.

15 9. The use as claimed in claim 8 in a liquid phase polymerisation.

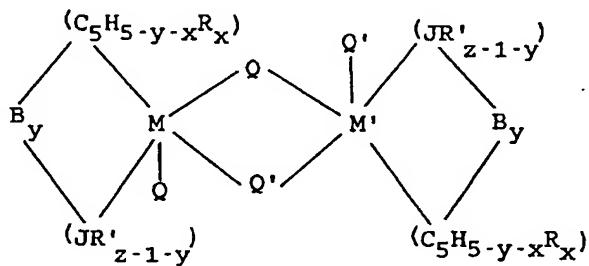
10. The use as claimed in claim 9 in a liquid phase polymerisation wherein ethylene is submitted to a reaction zone at pressures of from 1.3.10³ bar to 3445 bar and a reaction temperature from -100°C to 300°C.

20 Patentansprüche

1. Verfahren zur Olefinpolymerisation, bei dem Ethylen und ein Monomer ausgewählt aus C₃- bis C₂₀- α -Olefin oder einem C₅- bis C₂₀-Diolefin in Gegenwart eines Katalysatorsystems polymerisiert werden, das (A) eine Verbindung mit der allgemeinen Formel



35 oder



50 in der M Zr, Hf oder Ti ist;

(C₅H_{5-y-x}R_x) ein Cyclopentadienylring ist, der mit null bis fünf Gruppen R substituiert ist, "x" 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 oder 5 ist und den Substitutionsgrad bedeutet und jedes R jeweils unabhängig ein Rest ausgewählt aus einer Gruppe bestehend aus C₁- bis C₂₀-Kohlenwasserstoffresten, substituierten C₁- bis C₂₀-Kohlenwasserstoffresten, in denen ein Wasserstoffatom oder mehrere Wasserstoffatome durch ein Halogenatom ersetzt ist/sind, C₁- bis C₂₀-kohlenwasserstoffsubstituierten Metalloidresten, in denen das Metalloid ausgewählt ist aus der Gruppe IV A des Periodensystems der Elemente, und Halogenresten ist;

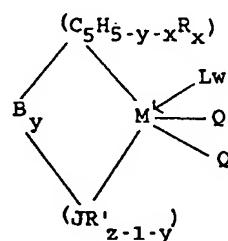
(JR'_{z-1-y}) ein Heteroatomligand ist, in dem J ein Element mit einer Koordinationszahl von drei aus der Gruppe V A oder ein Element mit einer Koordinationszahl von zwei aus der Gruppe VI A des Periodensystems der Elemente ist, jedes R' jeweils unabhängig ein Rest ausgewählt aus einer Gruppe bestehend aus C₁- bis C₂₀-Kohlenwasser-

stoffresten und substituierten C₁- bis C₂₀-Kohlenwasserstoffresten, in denen ein Wasserstoffatom oder mehrere Wasserstoffatome durch ein Halogenatom ersetzt worden ist/sind, und "z" die Koordinationszahl des Elementes J ist;

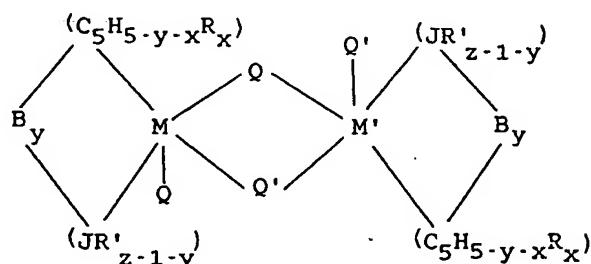
jedes Q und Q' jeweils unabhängig Halogen, Hydrid oder ein substituierter oder unsubstituierter C₁- bis C₂₀-Kohlenwasserstoff, Alkoxid, Aryloxid, Amid, Arylamid, Phosphid oder Arylphosphid ist, mit der Maßgabe, daß sich dieses Q oder Q' von C₅H_{5-y-x}R_x unterscheidet, wenn Q oder Q' ein Kohlenwasserstoff ist, oder beide Q und Q' zusammen ein Alkylien oder cyclometallierter Kohlenwasserstoff sind, und M' die gleiche Bedeutung wie M hat; "y" gleich 0 oder 1 ist, wenn w größer als 0 ist; y gleich 1 ist, wenn w gleich 0 ist; wenn "y" gleich 1 ist, B eine kovalente Brückengruppe ist, die ein Gruppe IV A oder V A Element enthält, und L eine neutrale Lewisbase ist, wobei "w" eine Zahl von 0 bis 3 bedeutet, und (B) ein Alumoxan umfaßt, unter Ausschluß

(i) einer Polymerisation von Ethylen und vinylaromatischem Monomer und
 (ii) einer Polymerisation von Ethylen und 1-Hexen oder 4-Methyl-1-penten, wenn die Verbindung (A) (N-t-Butylamino)(dimethyl)(η⁵-2,3,4,5-tetramethylcyclopentadienyl)silanzirkoniumdichlorid ist.

2. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, das eine Flüssigphasenpolymerisation ist.
3. Verfahren nach Anspruch 2, bei dem Ethylen bei Drücken von 1,3 × 10⁻³ bar bis 3445 bar und einer Reaktionstemperatur von -100 °C bis 300 °C in eine Reaktionszone geführt wird.
4. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, bei dem das α-Olefin 1-Buten oder 1-Octen ist.
5. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1 oder Anspruch 4, bei dem das Alumoxan Methylalumoxan mit einem durchschnittlichen Oligomerisierungsgrad von 4 bis 25 ist.
6. Verfahren nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, bei dem das resultierende Polymer ein M_w/M_n von 1,5 bis 15,0 hat.
7. Verfahren nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, bei dem das resultierende Polymer ein durchschnittliches Molekulargewicht (Gewichtsmittel) von 1 000 bis 5 000 000 hat.
8. Verwendung einer Verbindung mit der allgemeinen Formel



45 oder



in der M Zr, Hf oder Ti ist;

($C_5H_{5-y-x}R_x$) ein Cyclopentadienylring ist, der mit null bis fünf Gruppen R substituiert ist, "x" 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 oder 5 ist und den Substitutionsgrad bedeutet und jedes R jeweils unabhängig ein Rest ausgewählt aus einer Gruppe bestehend aus C_1 - bis C_{20} -Kohlenwasserstoffresten, substituierten C_1 - bis C_{20} -Kohlenwasserstoffresten, in denen ein Wasserstoffatom oder mehrere Wasserstoffatome durch ein Halogenatom ersetzt ist/sind, C_1 - bis C_{20} -kohlenwasserstoffsubstituierten Metalloidresten, in denen das Metalloid ausgewählt ist aus der Gruppe IV A des Periodensystems der Elemente, und Halogenresten ist;

(JR'_{z-1-y}) ein Heteroatomligand ist, in dem J ein Element mit einer Koordinationszahl von drei aus der Gruppe V A oder ein Element mit einer Koordinationszahl von zwei aus der Gruppe VI A des Periodensystems der Elemente ist, jedes R' jeweils unabhängig ein Rest ausgewählt aus einer Gruppe bestehend aus C_1 - bis C_{20} -Kohlenwasserstoffresten und substituierten C_1 - bis C_{20} -Kohlenwasserstoffresten, in denen ein Wasserstoffatom oder mehrere Wasserstoffatome durch ein Halogenatom ersetzt worden ist/sind, und "z" die Koordinationszahl des Elementes J ist;

jedes Q und Q' jeweils unabhängig Halogen, Hydrid oder ein substituierter oder unsubstituierter C_1 - bis C_{20} -Kohlenwasserstoff, Alkoxid, Aryloxid, Amid, Arylamid, Phosphid oder Arylphosphid ist, mit der Maßgabe, daß sich dieses Q oder Q' von $C_5H_{5-y-x}R_x$ unterscheidet, wenn Q oder Q' ein Kohlenwasserstoff ist, oder beide Q und Q' zusammen ein Alkyldien oder cyclometallierter Kohlenwasserstoff sind, und M' die gleiche Bedeutung wie M hat; "y" gleich 0 oder 1 ist, wenn w größer als 0 ist; y gleich 1 ist, wenn w gleich 0 ist; wenn "y" gleich 1 ist, B eine kovalente Brückengruppe ist, die ein Gruppe IV A oder V A Element enthält, und

L eine neutrale Lewisbase ist, wobei "w" eine Zahl von 0 bis 3 bedeutet,

zur Polymerisation von Ethylen und einem Monomer ausgewählt aus C_3 - bis C_{20} - α -Olefin oder einem C_5 - bis C_{20} -Diolefin unter Ausschluß von

- (i) einer Polymerisation von Ethylen und vinylaromatischem Monomer und
- (ii) einer Polymerisation von Ethylen und 1-Hexen oder 4-Methyl-1-penten, wenn die Verbindung (A) (N -t-Butyl-amino)(dimethyl)(η^5 -2,3,4,5-tetramethylcyclopentadienyl)silanzirkoniumdichlorid ist.

9. Verwendung nach Anspruch 8 in einer Flüssigphasenpolymerisation.

10. Verwendung nach Anspruch 9 in einer Flüssigphasenpolymerisation, bei der Ethylen bei Drücken von $1,3 \times 10^{-3}$ bar bis 3445 bar und einer Reaktionstemperatur von -100 °C bis 300 °C in eine Reaktionszone geführt wird.

Revendications

1. Procédé pour la polymérisation d'oléfines, comprenant la polymérisation d'éthylène et d'un monomère choisi entre une α -oléfine en C_3 à C_{20} et une dioléfine en C_5 à C_{20} en présence d'une formulation de catalyseur comprenant

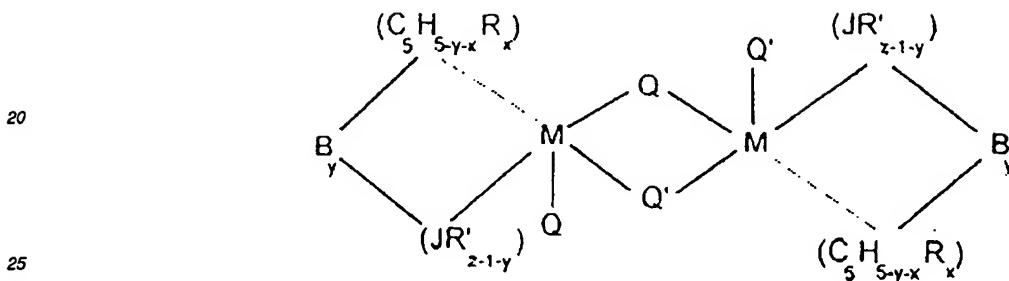
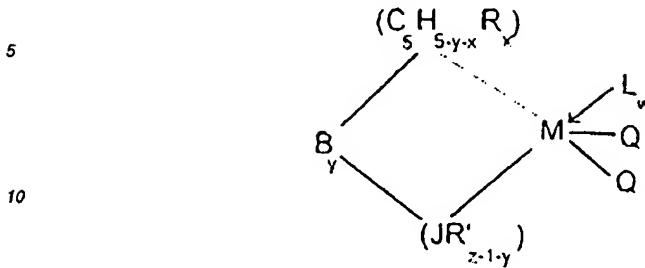
40

45

50

55

(A) un composé de formule générale :



dans laquelle M représente Zr, Hf ou Ti ;

30 (C₅H_{5-y-x}R_x) représente un noyau cyclopentadiényle qui est substitué avec zéro à cinq groupes R, "X" est égal à 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 ou 5 et désigne le degré de substitution, et chaque groupe R représente, indépendamment, un radical choisi dans le groupe consistant en radicaux hydrocarbyle en C₁ à C₂₀, radicaux hydrocarbyle en C₁ à C₂₀ substitués dans lesquels un ou plusieurs atomes d'hydrogène sont remplacés par des atomes d'halogènes, radicaux métalloïdiques à substituants hydrocarbyle en C₁ à C₂₀, dans lesquels le métalloïde est choisi dans le groupe IVA du Tableau Périodique des Eléments, et radicaux halogéno ;

35 (JR'_{z-1-y}) représente un ligand hétéroatomique dans lequel J désigne un élément ayant un indice de coordination égal à trois faisant partie du Groupe VA ou un élément ayant un indice de coordination égal à deux faisant partie du Groupe VIA du Tableau Périodique des Eléments, chaque groupe R' représente, indépendamment, un radical choisi dans le groupe consistant en radicaux hydrocarbyle en C₁ à C₂₀, radicaux hydrocarbyle en C₁ à C₂₀ substitués dans lesquels un ou plusieurs atomes d'hydrogène sont remplacés par des atomes d'halogènes, et "Z" représente l'indice de coordination de l'élément J ;

40 chacun des groupes Q et Q' représente, indépendamment, un halogène, un hydrure ou un radical hydrocarbyle en C₁ à C₂₀ substitué ou non substitué, alcoolate, aryloxyde, amide, arylamide, phosphure ou arylphosphure, sous réserve que, lorsque Q ou Q' représente un groupe hydrocarbyle, un tel groupe Q ou Q' soit différent de C₅H_{5-y-x}R_x, ou Q et Q' représentent conjointement un groupe alkylidène ou un groupe hydrocarbyle cyclométallé et M' répond à la même définition que M ;

45 "y" est égal à 0 ou 1 lorsque w est supérieur à 0, "y" est égal à 1 lorsque w est égal à 0 ; lorsque "y" est égal à 1, B représente un groupe de pontage covalent contenant un élément du Groupe IVA ou VA ; et

L représente une base neutre de Lewis dont l'indice "w" désigne un nombre de 0 à 3 ; et

50 (B) un alumoxane

avec les exclusions suivantes :

i) la polymérisation de l'éthylène et d'un monomère aromatique vinylique ; et

55 ii) lorsque le composé (A) consiste en dichlorure de (N-tertio-butylamino)(diméthyl)(η⁵-2,3,4,5-tétraméthylcyclopentadiényl)silane-zirconium, la polymérisation de l'éthylène et du 1-hexène ou du 4-méthyl-1-pentène.

2. Procédé suivant la revendication 1, qui est un procédé de polymérisation n phas liquide.

3. Procédé suivant la revendication 2, dans lequel l'éthylène est soumis à une zone réactionnelle à des pressions de $1,3 \cdot 10^{-3}$ bars à 3445 bars et à une température réactionnelle de -100°C à 300°C.

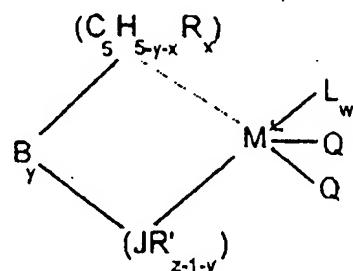
4. Procédé suivant la revendication 1, dans lequel l'α-oléfine consiste en 1-butène ou 1-octène.

5. Procédé suivant la revendication 1 ou la revendication 4, dans lequel l'alumoxane consiste en un méthylalumoxane ayant un degré moyen d'oligomérisation de 4 à 25.

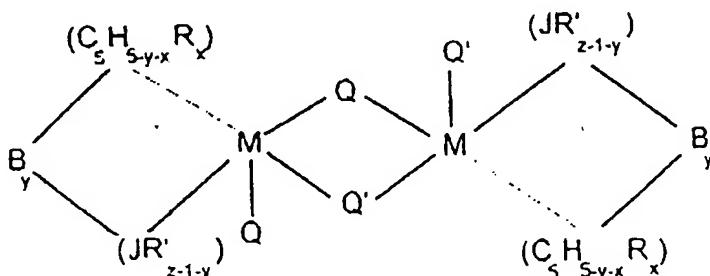
10. Procédé suivant l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel le polymère résultant a un rapport Mw/Mn de 1,5 à 15,0.

15. Procédé suivant l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel le polymère résultant a une moyenne pondérale du poids moléculaire de 1000 à 5 millions.

15. 8. Utilisation d'un composé de formule générale :



ou



40. dans laquelle M représente Zr, Hf ou Ti.

($C_5H_{5-y-x}R_x$) représente un noyau cyclopentadiényle qui est substitué avec zéro à cinq groupes R, "X" est égal à 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 ou 5 et désigne le degré de substitution, et chaque groupe R représente, indépendamment, un radical choisi dans le groupe consistant en radicaux hydrocarbyle en C_1 à C_{20} , radicaux hydrocarbyle en C_1 à C_{20} substitués dans lesquels un ou plusieurs atomes d'hydrogène sont remplacés par des atomes d'halogènes, radicaux métalloïdiques à substituants hydrocarbyle en C_1 à C_{20} , dans lesquels le métalloïde est choisi dans le groupe IVA du Tableau Périodique des Éléments, et radicaux halogéno ;

(JR'_{z-1-y}) représente un ligand hétéroatomique dans lequel J désigne un élément ayant un indice de coordination égal à trois faisant partie du Groupe VA ou un élément ayant un indice de coordination égal à deux faisant partie du Groupe VIA du Tableau Périodique des Éléments, chaque groupe R' représente, indépendamment, un radical choisi dans le groupe consistant en radicaux hydrocarbyle en C_1 à C_{20} , radicaux hydrocarbyle en C_1 à C_{20} substitués dans lesquels un ou plusieurs atomes d'hydrogène sont remplacés par des atomes d'halogènes, et "Z" représente l'indice de coordination de l'élément J ;

chacun des groupes Q et Q' représente, indépendamment, un halogène, un hydrure ou un radical hydrocarbyle en C_1 à C_{20} substitué ou non substitué, alcoolate, aryloxyde, amide, arylamide, phosphure ou arylphosphure, sous réserve que, lorsque Q ou Q' représente un groupe hydrocarbyle, un tel groupe Q ou Q' soit différent de $C_5H_{5-y-x}R_x$, ou Q et Q' représentent conjointement un groupe alkylidène ou un groupe hydrocarbyle cyclométallé et M' répond à la même définition qu' M ;

"y" est égal à 0 ou 1 lorsque w est supérieur à 0, "y" est égal à 1 lorsque w est égal à 0 ; lorsque "y" est égal

à 1, B représente un groupe de pontage covalent contenant un élément du Groupe IVA ou VA ; et
L représente une base neutre de Lewis dont l'indice "w" désigne un nombre de 0 à 3 ;
avec les exclusions suivantes :

5 i) la polymérisation de l'éthylène et d'un monomère aromatique vinylique ; et
ii) lorsque le composé (A) consiste en dichlorure de (N-tertio-butylamino)(diméthyl)(η^5 -2,3,4,5-tétraméthylcyclopentadiényl)silane-zirconium, la polymérisation de l'éthylène et du 1-hexène ou du 4-méthyl-1-pentène.

9. Utilisation suivant la revendication 8 dans une polymérisation en phase liquide.

10 10. Utilisation suivant la revendication 9 dans une polymérisation en phase liquide dans laquelle de l'éthylène est soumis à une zone réactionnelle à des pressions de $1,3 \cdot 10^{-3}$ bars à 3445 bars et à une température réactionnelle de -100°C à 300°C.

15

20

25

30

35

40

45

50

55